



Yogi claims wife was 'energy vampire' as grounds for divorce

BUCHAREST, AP — A Romanian judge has granted a divorce to a man who claimed his wife was an "energy vampire" who drained his vitality.

Prisoner holds hostage for pizza and Coke

COPENHAGEN, AP — A 31-year-old man held a hostage in a Copenhagen restaurant for a pizza and a Coca-Cola.

Granny tries to sell 3-year-old grandson for cocaine

BLITZ, AP — A woman in a small town in Germany tried to sell her 3-year-old grandson for cocaine.

Police arrest suspect in carjacking

ST. LOUIS, AP — Police arrested a suspect in a carjacking in St. Louis.

Police arrest suspect in carjacking

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Cyprus wargames start with Greek participation

NICOSIA (R) — A five-day military exercise started in Cyprus on Friday, with some 9,000 reservists taking part, army officials said. Greek naval and air forces were due to take part in the Greek Cypriot exercise, code-named Nikiforos, which will be limited to the southern Greek Cypriot areas of the eastern Mediterranean island. Greek Defence Minister Nikos Panagiotou, due to arrive in Cyprus on Monday, will attend operational phases of the exercise, officials said. The annual exercise, with live ammunition, coincides this year with a Greek Air Force exercise between Cyprus and the Greek Aegean island of Rhodes. Cyprus has a defence pact with Greece, its closest ally. The island has been divided since Turkish forces seized the north in 1974, days after a brief Greek-Cypriot coup engineered by the military regime ruling Greece at the time.

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جوردان تايمز يومية مستقلة بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية الراية



Southern Sudanese rebels claim capture of town

CAIRO (AFP) — Sudanese rebels said Friday they had captured a government garrison town in the south of Sudan's central Kordofan province. The Sudanese People's Liberation Army (SPLA), led by John Garang, claimed it captured the town of Belinia Sunday. The town is some 600 kilometres from Khartoum. The SPLA said in a statement that more than 20 government soldiers were killed. There was no independent confirmation of the fighting. Sudan has been wracked since 1983 by a civil war between government forces and southern rebels. The southern rebels seek to end the Arab and Muslim north's domination of the Christian and animist south.

King leaves for London on private visit

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein Thursday left for Britain on a several-day private visit to the United Kingdom. The King is accompanied by Prince Zeid Ben Shaker and Princess Rana Bani Al Hussein. HRH Crown Prince Hassan was sworn in as Regent during the King's absence.

Arafat meets Jordanian representative

GAZA (Petra) — Palestinian President Yasser Arafat Friday received head of Jordan's representation office in Gaza, Ziad Majali, and briefed him on the latest developments on the Palestinian-Israeli track, including Mr. Arafat's meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, and the outcome of Palestinian-Israeli committee meetings.

Abu Zeid off to Bahrain, UAE

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein's advisor Salah Abu Zeid today starts a several-day tour to Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) to deliver messages from King Hussein to the leaders of the two countries dealing with the latest developments of the Middle East peace process, means of enhancing common Arab work and bilateral relations.

Knesset approves more funding for settlements

TEL AVIV (AP) — The Knesset Wednesday approved the transfer of \$860,000 to the housing ministry for construction in existing Jewish settlements in the West Bank, a spokesman said. The spokesman, Giora Pordes, said the parliamentary finance committee also approved a similar sum for security of Jewish settlers and settlements in Arab east Jerusalem. All these funds were taken from a reserve originally intended for mortgages for immigrants from Ethiopia, he said. Israel says it must allow the natural growth of Jewish settlements. But the Palestinians, who oppose any more building in their areas, reject the argument as a cover for plans to bring more Israelis into the West Bank.

Palestinians, Israeli troops clash near Hebron

TEL AVIV (R) — About 20 Palestinian vendors clashed with Israeli troops who came to demolish their produce stalls near the West Bank town of Hebron Thursday, witnesses said. They said the soldiers came to the town of Halhoul with bulldozers to wreck five tents stalls that Israel says were erected illegally. The vendors, mainly elderly men and women, tried to prevent the demolition, throwing stones at soldiers and confronting them with metal bars, witnesses said. Soldiers responded with force, beating and arresting several of the vendors.

Egyptian farmer killed by explosive in field

MINYA (AFP) — A farmer was killed and another wounded Thursday by an explosive device they found in a field in southern Egypt, police sources said. Police said the explosive had been planted at Al Mahrasa village in Minya province during the fighting between security services and Islamists which has rocked the region in recent years.

440 electoral candidates register on first day; banners decorate streets of Jordan

Crown Prince calls for reason, objectivity and positivism to prevail in November 4 elections

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, stressed Friday that reason, objectivity and positivism should prevail in the coming parliamentary elections and called on all citizens to shoulder their national responsibility and participate in the polls as His Majesty King Hussein has wished.

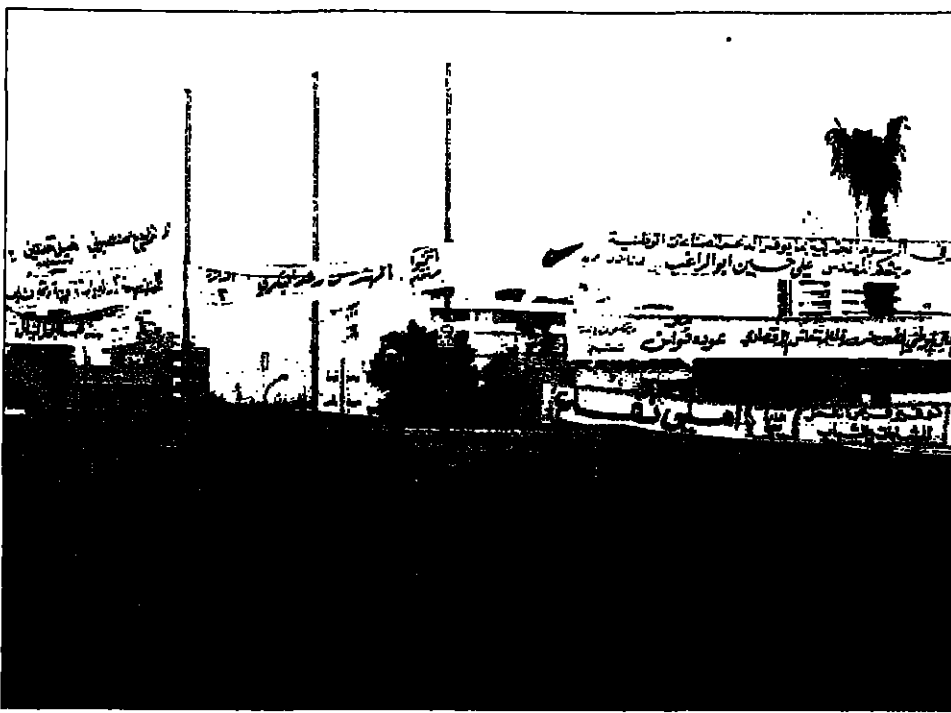
In a statement to journalists following a visit to the Ministry of Interior, Prince Hassan said that the holding of the elections for the 13th Parliament shows that Jordan is proceeding with clear steps towards building more democracy.

"I congratulate all Jordanians on their exercise of this responsible freedom," the Regent said after the visit which came at the beginning of the official period for the registration of candidates.

The Crown Prince noted that elections for the 13th Parliament is "a continuation of a dear march to us, and a commitment by all officials to shoulder their responsibilities in providing a climate that will enable citizens to exercise their constitutional right and national duty" to vote and run for election.

Prince Hassan noted the efforts made by the Ministry of Interior and other concerned departments to ensure the highest degree of efficiency and integrity in the forthcoming polls.

Prince Hassan met at the ministry with Deputy Prime Minister for Services Affairs and Minister of Administrative



Jordanians woke up Friday to find banners carrying election slogans hung on street poles all over the Kingdom. Yesterday was the official start of electoral campaigns whereas candidates will be hanging more banners, posters and distributing their campaign programmes and business cards until elections day, Nov. 4 (Photo by Rana Hussein)

Development Abdullah Ensour and Interior Minister Nahir Rashid and discussed with them the steps taken by the government to ensure smooth elections.

Meanwhile, a total of 440 candidates, including 13 women registered as candidates for the Nov. 4th elections on the first day of the three-day nomination period. Also Friday the first banners appeared in all towns in the Kingdom.

In the 1993 parliamentary elections, a total of 559, includ-

ing three women registered for the elections of the 12th Parliament.

Following is a breakdown of the number of candidates registered for the upcoming elections on the first day of the nomination period per district: First District: 19 candidates; Second District: 14 candidates; Third District: 14 candidates; Fourth District: 11 candidates; Fifth District: 32 candidates; Central Bedouin: 17 candidates; Irbid District: 47 candidates; Koura and North Jordan

Valley District: 23 candidates; Ramtha and Bani Kanana District: 13 candidates; Zarqa District: 30 candidates; Balqa District: 43 candidates; Karak District: 21 candidates; Ma'an District: 14 candidates; South Bedouin District: 14 candidates; Tafleeh District: 14 candidates; North Bedouin District: 14 candidates; Ajloun District: 15 candidates; Mafraq District: 15 candidates; Jerash District: 16 candidates; Aqaba District: 7 candidates.

Levy placates Canada with apology; weighing decision to resign position

I've had it with this man — Israeli FM

Netanyahu releases rest of tax revenues

Combined agency dispatches

CANADIAN FOREIGN Minister Lloyd Axworthy said Friday he has received assurances from his Israeli counterpart, David Levy, that Canadian passports would no longer be used by Israel's secret service.

In the letter, Foreign Minister Levy apologised "for the fact that any misuse of our passports may have caused inconvenience or any problems of safety for any Canadian citizens," Mr. Axworthy said.

"Israel will now undertake measures to ensure it never happens again," Mr. Axworthy said.

Mr. Axworthy, in another statement, said that it was sending its ambassador back to Tel Aviv.

Mr. Levy had drawn up a document intended to calm Canada's outrage over the use of its passports by Mossad agents in the bungled assassination attempt against Hamas politburo chief Khaled Misha'al in the Jordanian capital, Amman, on Sept. 25, a ministry spokesman said Friday.

"It is connected to the problems on the issue of the use of the Canadian passports. It is a document that is acceptable to both sides and we hope it can solve the problems," spokesman Aviv Shit-On told Reuters.

The Canadian government had recalled its ambassador, David Berger, from Israel and Mr. Axworthy said Tuesday that Mr. Berger would not

return until Israel gave an assurance it would stop using Canadian passports in Mossad operations.

Mr. Levy said Thursday that he may resign because of his troubled relations with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, and suggested his health had suffered because of the tension with the premier.

Mr. Levy told Israeli Radio he was not consulted about the decision to order Israeli agents to assassinate Hamas chief Misha'al, and that he would have opposed the plan.

The botched Sept. 25 attack on the Hamas leader only strengthened Hamas and damaged Israel's international standing and its relations with Jordan, Mr. Levy said.

"The damage is definitely grave... to everything," Mr. Levy said. Asked about the chances that he might resign, he replied, "about 50-50."

Foreign Minister Levy's relations with the premier have been rocky since the government was formed, and Mr. Netanyahu and his aides have kept Mr. Levy and the Foreign Ministry on the margins of policymaking.

Mr. Levy, who was hospitalised Tuesday night with chest pains, said his condition was caused by overwork, but admitted that it was aggravated by his anger at Mr. Netanyahu.

"I have no doubt," he said when asked about this. Media reports said Mr. Levy almost refused to receive Mr. Netanyahu when he visited him at the hospital in Afula. The reports quoted Mr. Levy as saying, "I've had it with this man."

Combined agency dispatches

ISRAELIS AND Palestinians got on with committee-level peace talks in a changed landscape on Thursday after several days of turbulence that have rattled both Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Palestinian President Yasser Arafat.

Both sides spoke of an improved atmosphere for future progress after an impromptu summit in the small hours of Wednesday sparked by the fallout of a bungled Israeli bid to liquidate a top Hamas leader in the Jordanian capital, Amman.

"It may be that the developments of the last few days have been so troubling and so difficult that it has gotten the attention of both sides and clarified the necessity of talking to each other and getting this peace process back on track. I hope that is what happened," U.S. President Bill Clinton said in Washington.

President Clinton's envoy Dennis Ross, who helped to arrange the first Israeli-Palestinian summit in eight months, headed home proclaiming a "new beginning" in the peace process, despite the fact that neither Mr. Netanyahu nor Mr.

Arafat gave a hint of any material progress.

In an apparent result of the summit, Israel has agreed to release millions of dollars in funds owed to the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) as the first signs of an improved atmosphere emerged Thursday.

But while Wednesday's pre-dawn summit between Mr. Netanyahu and Mr. Arafat produced confidence-building measures, the main track of the peace process remained deadlocked.

Mr. Netanyahu agreed during the summit to release all tax revenues he had ordered to be withheld in early August from the cash-strapped PNA, Nabil Shaath said.

Israel said Thursday it would transfer \$48 million "within the next few days," Mr. Shaath told AFP. The PNA has also asked that Israel pay an unspecified amount in interest.

In another gesture, the Israeli army announced it had further eased its closure of the PNA territories, to allow around 20,000 more Palestinians to enter Israel for work.

Iraq has 184 operational fighter jets — Pentagon

WASHINGTON (AFP) — The United States is taking steps to ensure Iraq, with 184 operational fighter jets at its disposal, stays out of the "no-fly" zone in southern Iraq, the Pentagon said Thursday.

Spokesman Kenneth Bacon said planes overflying the zone would henceforth move up to the 33rd Parallel, 50 kilometres south of the capital Baghdad, and the number of surveillance flights would be increased.

Mr. Bacon, who conceded there had been no Iraqi violations of the "no-fly zone" within the last 24 hours, did not give figures for the increased monitoring of the region.

Additionally, Mr. Bacon said, the United States was bolstering the aircraft carrier Nimitz, now on its way to the Gulf, with two B-1 bomber planes and two warships capable of firing Tomahawk missiles.

Mr. Bacon pointed out that the Nimitz was leading

a convoy of U.S. Navy vessels that included two more warships, a destroyer, a frigate and an attack submarine.

The southern "no-fly zone" was set up after the 1991 Gulf war to stem an offensive by Iraqi troops against Shiite opposition forces in the south of the country.

A similar exclusion zone was established in the Kurdish region in the north.

Last year, Washington pushed the "no-fly zone" further north, from the 32nd to the 33rd Parallel, in a move supported by Britain but not France.

Meanwhile, State Department spokesman James Rubin said U.S. diplomats were working with U.N. Security Council members "to try to make sure that we do keep the pressure on Iraq."

"We will be working with our colleagues on the Security Council to make sure the strongest possible message is sent to Iraq: that if

they don't comply with these requirements, they are never going to have the sanctions lifted, and they will never be able to rejoin the community of nations," Mr. Rubin said.

Mr. Rubin criticised Iraqi violations of the "no-fly zone" but pointed out that the U.N. Special Commission (UNSCOM) in charge of dismantling Iraq released a report Monday stating that Baghdad has made no effort to get rid of its biological weapons and "continues to prevent the U.N. team from doing its job."

The Security Council is due to discuss the report on Oct. 16 when it will decide whether to renew seven-year-old sanctions against Iraq.

An oil embargo under the U.N. sanctions, which have been in force since Iraq's 1990 invasion of Kuwait, cannot be lifted until UNSCOM certifies that Iraqi weapons of mass destruction have been eliminated.

Rashid denies Israeli embassy bombed by Molotov on Thursday

By Tareq Ayyoub
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Minister of Interior Nahir Rashid on Friday denied that two Molotov bombs were thrown at the Israeli embassy on Thursday evening and said that police found no bombs near the mission's building in the Rabia neighbourhood.

"These are merely fabricated news and nothing but rumours," Mr. Rashid said. "The director of Public Security Department lead a police force to the scene and found nothing at all."

"No bombs and no arrests," the minister said that tight security arrangements are imposed around the embassy and "there was no chance that such an attack could take place."

The minister was responding to media reports that two Molotov cocktail bombs were found near the embassy on Thursday.

The Israeli embassy spokesperson, Roey Gilad,

said that the bombs were found "100 metres away from the embassy" on Thursday.

"I guess they [the perpetrators] were targeting the embassy but they were not professionals," Mr. Gilad told the Jordan Times.

"It is a very minor incident. We are very happy with the support of police who reacted very fast," said the spokesperson, adding that he does not know whether anybody was arrested in connection with the alleged incident.

The alleged incident is the second reported attack against Israelis in Amman in less than a month.

Last month, two Israeli embassy employees were attacked by unidentified persons, who have not been arrested so far.

Thursday's alleged incident follows an assassination attempt against Khaled Misha'al, the chief of the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, political bureau by two Israeli Mossad agents.

Meanwhile, Agence France Presse reported from Israel that Jordan has expelled all agents from Israel's Mossad intelligence service in Amman in retaliation for the agency's attempt to assassinate Mr. Misha'al.

The agency, quoting the Hebrew daily, Maariv, said that His Majesty King Hussein ordered all agents in the Mossad office expelled and cooperation with the Israeli intelligence cut.

The head of the Mossad mission and his agents have returned home "on the express orders of King Hussein" even though Israel says they were not involved in the Sept. 25 attempt to kill Mr. Misha'al, Israeli army radio said.

The report was dismissed as baseless by an adviser to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and by Jordanian government officials who said the Kingdom was not aware of any Israeli intelligence mission in Jordan.

Iraq calls on United Nations to speed oil pipeline parts deal

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Iraq's foreign minister has called on Secretary-General Kofi Annan to look into the slow approval of the purchase of spare parts for the Kirkuk-to-Yumurtalik pipeline.

In a letter released Friday, Iraqi Foreign Minister Mohammad Saeed Sahhaf also asked Mr. Annan to investigate delays on humanitarian aid contracts imposed by the United States in the U.N. Sanctions Committee.

Mr. Sahhaf sent his letter to Mr. Annan on Monday, two days before the committee agreed to sell the parts to Turkey for the pipeline that is to carry about 56 per cent of the oil sold in the current six-month phase of the Iraq oil-for-food sale.

The committee's decision was contingent on the outcome U.S.-Turkey negotiations, which have not been completed. A Turkish official said the

U.S. has not agreed to the sale of four-wheel vehicles and minivans used to patrol the pipeline, which brings oil to the Turkish port of Ceyhan.

Also, Washington has balked at allowing parts for the one of the two parallel pipelines. Oil is now flowing in a 40-inch pipeline and the U.S. will allow purchase of parts for it, the Turkish official said on condition he not be named.

However, there is also a 46-inch pipeline that has not been used since 1990. For now, the Turkish official said, the Americans will not allow the U.N. to give money to Turkey for parts on this larger pipeline.

The official, based at the Turkish mission to the U.N. in New York, said he had not yet heard whether Ankara will approve the limited spare parts package. But he suggested that Ankara would.

"They won't like it probably but they will probably

not oppose it," he said. "We should be satisfied for the time being."

Iraqi officials have warned that oil flow may be interrupted if the spare parts are not delivered soon. But U.S. officials said there is no real hurry and that parts to maintain the pipeline are on hand in Turkey and Iraq.

U.S. officials say that they do not want to enhance the long-term infrastructure of Iraq or approve sale of parts that may be used for other things. But they will allow parts to ensure steady flow of oil in the oil-for-food sale.

Turkey requested about \$3.5 million for spare parts and vehicles to maintain the pipeline. The Turkish official said he was unsure the value of the package less the portions on which the Americans have balked.

Turkey is responsible for maintaining the pipeline in Turkey and Iraq.

Arafat cabinet calls for unity with Hamas

RAMALLAH (AFP) — The Palestinian National Authority (PNA) cabinet welcomed Thursday the return of Hamas founder and spiritual leader, Sheikh Ahmad Yassin, to the Gaza Strip, calling for unity with the Islamist group, Wafa, the Palestinian news service reported.

"This is a special step toward national unity and the aim to achieve a Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital. We call for more awareness of the enemy that does not want unity," the statement added.

Hamas politburo chief Khaled Misha'al, who survived an Israeli assassination attempt in Jordan, urged President Arafat Thursday to work together with Hamas, witnesses said in Gaza.

In a publicly broadcast telephone call to Sheikh Yassin, Mr. Misha'al appealed for Mr. Arafat to strengthen the Palestinian people.

'Israel sent message to Syria via France'

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu recently sent a message via France to Syrian leader Hafez Assad seeking a resumption of long-suspended peace talks, the Israeli newspaper Yediot Ahronot reported Thursday.

The newspaper said Mr. Netanyahu's diplomatic advisor Uzi Arad transmitted the message to Mr. Assad in a meeting in Paris with Dominique de Villepin, secretary general at the Elysee Presidential Palace.

Red Cross negotiating over Israelis killed in Lebanon

BEIRUT (AP) — Jean-Jacques Fresard, the Beirut delegate of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), said Thursday it could take months to complete negotiations over the remains of Israeli soldiers killed last month in Lebanon.

He made the comment after meeting with Prime Minister Rafik Hariri. Mr. Fresard said he would carry a message from the prime minister on the issue to Israel. He declined to disclose its contents.

Poll says Netanyahu more popular after assassination fiasco

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — Despite sharp press and opposition criticism, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has climbed in popularity since the botched bid by Mossad agents on a Hamas leader in Amman, a poll said Friday.

Thirty-nine per cent of Israeli-Jews said they would vote for Mr. Netanyahu if elections were held today, up from 34 per cent in August, according to the poll by the Gallup organisation published in the Israeli newspaper Maariv.

Israel and Canada cooperate closely on security

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israeli and Canadian intelligence agencies have been cooperating closely and met shortly before the Mossad's failed Sept. 25 assassination of Hamas politburo chief Khaled Misha'al in Amman, the Jerusalem Post daily said Friday.

Canada has reacted angrily in public to the Mossad's use of Canadian passports in the failed attack, and last week recalled its ambassador to Israel.



CHE GUEVARA REMEMBERED: Renowned Lebanese artist Ziad Rabbani performs in Beirut Friday to mark the 30th anniversary of Argentine revolutionary Ernesto 'Che' Guevara's death. Lebanese Che Guevara supporters held a musical concert and handed out his posters in Beirut's Verdun street Thursday. Che Guevara was captured and killed by Bolivian troops on October 8, 1967, while leading an abortive guerrilla uprising there. Che Guevara's remains were unearthed from a secret mass grave in July and returned to Cuba, and will be on public display in Havana's Revolutionary Square on Friday (Reuters photo)

Israel and Canada cooperate closely on security

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israeli and Canadian intelligence agencies have been cooperating closely and met shortly before the Mossad's failed Sept. 25 assassination of Hamas politburo chief Khaled Misha'al in Amman, the Jerusalem Post daily said Friday.

Canada has reacted angrily in public to the Mossad's use of Canadian passports in the failed attack, and last week recalled its ambassador to Israel.

Normal Specter, a former Canadian ambassador to Israel and the publisher of the Post, said the Canadian government is in fact trying to hush up the close ties between Israel's Mossad

and the Canadian security and intelligence service. "Our government will not even confirm that CSIS, despite a mandate restricted to domestic intelligence gathering, has an agent posted in Tel Aviv and is in regular contact with Mossad and Shabak [general security service] at both the operational and senior levels," Mr. Specter wrote in the Toronto Globe and Mail.

The comeback of Ariel Sharon, champion of Israel's far-right

By Marius Schattner
AFP

TEL AVIV — Ariel Sharon, the champion of Israel's far-right, has made a dramatic comeback from the political hinterland as the fireman called in to douse the flames of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's biggest political and diplomatic blunders.

Mr. Sharon's growing influence became apparent this week when Mr. Netanyahu paid a vibrant homage to the portly politician's central role in defusing a crisis sparked by Israel's botched attempt to kill a Palestinian leader in Jordan.

Just 17 months ago Mr. Netanyahu fiercely resisted pressure to bring Mr. Sharon into his new government and ultimately gave him an ostensibly technical post as infrastructure minister.

Israeli attempt to murder a Hamas official in Amman said Mr. Sharon played a central role in calming the fury of King Hussein over the incident.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

14:10 Twinkle
14:30 Muppet Show
15:00 World Of Geo
16:00 The Valley Between
16:30 Beakman's World
17:00 French programmes
19:00 Le Journal
19:30 News headlines
19:35 Neighbours
20:00 The Newly Weds
20:30 Prism
21:10 Time Trax
22:00 News in English
22:30 Feature film
23:59 Ellen

PRAYER TIMES

04:15 Fajr
05:31 (Sunrise) Dhuha
11:22 Dhur
14:40 'Asr
17:13 Maghreb
18:30 'Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church
Sweith, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church Tel.
632785.
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation
Tel. 637440.
De la Salle Church Tel. 661656.
Terra Sancta Church Tel.
622366

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Church of the Annunciation
Tel. 623541
Anglican Church Tel. 652826.
Armenian Catholic Church
Tel. 771331.
Armenian Orthodox Church
Tel. 775261.
St. Ephraim Church Tel.
771751.
Armenian International Church
Tel. 5516245
Evangelical Lutheran Church
Tel. 824328.
German-speaking Evangelical
Congregation Tel. 845457
The Latter-Day Saints Tel.
654932.
Church of Nazareth Tel.
675691.
The Evangelical Local Church
in Amman Tel. 811295
English-speaking
Latin Catholics Parish Tel.
614190.

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology
Moderate weather conditions
will prevail with temperatures
dropping slightly and humidity
rising. Clouds will appear at
different altitudes and winds
northwesterly moderate. In
Aqaba, it will be fair, winds

northerly moderate, and seas
calm.
Min./Max. temp.
Amman 17/27
Aqaba 21/31
Deserts 15/30
Jordan Valley 21/30

Yesterday's high temperatures:
Amman 30 Aqaba 34 Humidity
readings: Amman 40 per cent,
Aqaba 40 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY
AMMAN:
Dr. Mukhlis Mazharah 830425
Dr. Wissam Hasyin 748563
Dr. Munther Al Qasbi 779959
Dr. Abdul Hadi Tayfun 620115
Firas pharmacy 661912
Ferdows pharmacy 778336
Al Asema pharmacy 637055
Nairolah pharmacy 623672
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 649465
Shmeisani pharmacy 637660
Najib pharmacy 847632
IRBID:
Dr. Ghazi Th'ammeh 250080
Al Quds pharmacy (—)
ZARQA:
Dr. Salah Safarati

..... 987565
Khalifeh pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate Rescue 630341
Rescue Police 192 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 617101
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 605800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage Complaints 897467
Amman Municipality Complaints 787111
Telephone Information (direct assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone Repairs 623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority

..... 815615
Electric Power Company 636381

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn 644281/6
Aldieh Maternity, J. Amn 642441/2
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Malhas, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shmeisani 607071
Shmeisani Hospital 669131
University Hospital 845845
Al-Muasher Hospital 66727/9
The Islamic, Abdali 666126/37
Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164/6
Italian, Al-Muhajreen 777101/3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 775111/25
Army, Marka 891611/5
Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50
Amal Hospital 674155
The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery 865199
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital

..... 09/883323
Zarqa National Hospital 09/900560
Ibn Sina Hospital 09/86732
Al Hikmah Modern Hospital 09/990990

IRBID:

Princess Basma Hospital 02/275555
Greek Catholic Hospital 02/272275
Ibn Al Nafes Hospital 02/247100
AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital 03/314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200 where it should always be verified. Information on other flights is obtained on telephone (08) 52700 or (08) 523250.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights
07:05 Damascus (RJ)
09:20 New Delhi (RJ)

09:25 Beirut (RJ)
09:30 Karachi, Dubai (RJ)
09:35 Aqaba (add) (RJ)
10:00 Colombo (RJ)
14:55 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)

Other Flights

05:10 Jakarta (GA)
06:05 London, Damascus (BA)
12:00 Riyadh (SV)
12:10 Muscat, Abu Dhabi (GF)
14:05 Vienna (OS)
15:30 Dubai (EK)
16:00 Doha (QR)
17:25 Antalya (TK)
19:10 London (GA)
20:10 Paris, Damascus (AF)
21:15 Cairo (MS)
22:25 Beirut (ME)
22:45 Amsterdam (KL)
00:15 London (BA)
02:00 Rome (AZ)
Royal Wings (RW)
(No flights on Saturday)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights
05:45 Beirut (RJ)
07:00 Aqaba (add) (RJ)
11:40 Amsterdam, New York

(RJ)
12:00 Geneva, Madrid (RJ)
12:05 Brussels, Amsterdam (RJ)
12:10 Paris (RJ)
12:15 Cairo (RJ)
13:05 London (RJ)
20:10 Riyadh, Doha (RJ)
20:25 Jeddah (RJ)
20:45 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
20:50 Bombay (RJ)
21:00 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
23:59 Aqaba, Paris (add) (RJ)

Other Flights

03:00 Rome (AZ)
03:00 Athens (OA)
05:50 Larnaca (CY)
06:10 London (GA)
06:55 London (BA)
07:10 Damascus, London (GF)
13:30 Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (GF)
13:30 Riyadh (SV)
14:50 Vienna (OS)
16:45 Dubai (EK)
16:50 Doha (QR)
18:25 Antalya (TK)
20:10 Jakarta (GA)
22:15 Cairo (MS)
22:55 Damascus, Paris (GF)
23:25 Beirut, Amsterdam (KL)
03:00 Rome (AZ)
03:00 Athens (OA)

Other Flights

Royal Wings (RW)
(No flights on Saturday)

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KOREAN FILM FESTIVAL

German film 'Eisenstein' at G

PLAY

Children's play 'Shahinur and

at the Royal Cultural Centre

from 10.00 until Oct 16.



PRINCESS BASMA ATTENDS BAZAAR: Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Thursday inspected some of the items displayed at a bazaar organised by the diplomatic missions in Amman at Al Hussein Youth City. On display were handicrafts, food, and different products from the 50 countries taking part in the annual event, whose proceeds benefit the Mabarrat (Orphanage) Um Al Hussein, which was established by the late Queen Zein, the Queen Mother, in 1951 (Petra photo)

Prince Faisal celebrates 34th birthday

AMMAN (Petra) — HRH Prince Faisal Ben Al Hussein Saturday celebrated his 34th birthday.

Born Oct. 11, 1963, he received his elementary education at the Islamic College in Amman and in the U.K.

In 1971, Prince Faisal went to the United States, where he completed his secondary education in the state of Massachusetts and in the capital Washington, D.C.

In 1981 he enrolled at Brown University in the U.S., where, in 1985, he obtained a bachelor of science degree in electrical engineering.

He simultaneously obtained training as a pilot and received his wings in 1982, later joining the Royal Jordanian Air Force to train in helicopter navigation.



The Prince then returned to the U.K., where he studied at Cornwall Academy and was presented six awards for excellent performance. Subsequently, he trained on fighter planes. At present Prince Faisal

is preparing for his masters degree in public administration from England.

The Prince, who is ranked as lieutenant-colonel in the airforce, is commander of the Sixth Royal Squadron and president of several clubs, including the Royal Gliders Club and the Golf Club.

Prince Faisal is involved in several sports and cultural activities and has represented Jordan in numerous international functions.

He is married to Princess Alia, daughter of the late Jordanian businessman Tawfiq Tabbaa, and couple has four children, Princess Aya, Prince Omar, Princess Sara, and Princess Aysheh.

Funding for unemployment study approved after delay

By Fairouz Abu-Ghazaleh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The reported controversy involving the finance and publication of an unemployment study conducted by the Centre for Strategic Studies (CSS) at the University of Jordan ended this week with the minister of planning approving the allocation of the promised money.

The study, which was completed in 24 days, began in December of last year and was approved by former Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti and Minister of Planning Rima Khalaf, who also agreed to allocate JD43,550 to finance the study.

The study, which used a sample of 6,000 families, examined different issues relating to unemployment and the unemployed that had not been addressed in previous studies.

The controversy began on Feb. 3, when Dr. Khalaf, two months after her approval, sent a letter to the director of the CSS, informing him that her approval of the study did not absolve the centre from meeting the requirements of the General Statistics Law.

The 1950 law forbids any governmental or non-governmental body to collect or publish any statistical data unless it is approved by the head of the Department of Statistics.

In a column by Fahd Fanek in the Oct. 4 edition of Al Rai, Dr. Fanek wrote that when the figures of the CSS on unemployment reached the Ministry of Planning, the ministry froze the study, since the figures were different from those of the Department of Statistics.

"The ministry took this position, because the study came up with an unemployment ratio that ranges from 22 to 27 per cent, depending on what definition one takes to determine who is an unemployed person," Dr. Fanek said.

He further wrote that having two figures on unemployment should not be a cause for dispute.

The distinguishing factor in the study is the definition used, and there is a figure for every definition. "Do we set the age of unemployed at the age of 15 or 18, and do we exclude those who are 60 or 65?" he wrote.

Dr. Khalaf, meanwhile, denied that there was any

controversy. "There is no controversy. I don't understand where that notion came from," Dr. Khalaf told the Jordan Times Wednesday.

Dr. Khalaf said the CSS had to "send a request to publish" to the Department of Statistics, and now that the request has reached the department, the money will be sent and the study can be published.

As for her response to the study, which will be published this week, the minister said there are two parts to the study. The first is statistical, which she said she could not judge, since she is not a statistical expert. The second is behavioural, which she said is important and very useful to the country.

CSS Director Mustafa Hamarneh said he is pleased with the way things ended.

"We will receive the money on Saturday or Sunday and the study will be published immediately," he said.

"The cause of independent research has been advanced," Dr. Hamarneh added.

King assembles Al Amal board of directors

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein has created a board of trustees for Al Amal Cancer Centre, to be chaired by Her Majesty Queen Noor and to include the prime minister and other prominent personalities, and has stated that appropriate legislation should be introduced to promote the centre's operations.

In a message to the prime minister Thursday, the King expressed appreciation for the executive council of the General Union of Voluntary Societies and the National Task Force, which were instrumental in the creation

of the cancer centre, and said "we appreciate the great efforts they exerted and voice our gratitude for their service to the nation and the sacrifice they made in the course of creating this great centre."

"As the centre's operations require further efforts and coordination of plans by all parties concerned with health affairs, we have decided on the formation of the centre's board of trustees," King Hussein added.

According to the King's directives, the board will comprise the following: Queen Noor, chairperson;

Dr. Majali, vice chairperson; Abdullah Khatib, rapporteur; and the following board members: the ministers of health, social development, and finance, Zuhair Malhas, Raef Nijem, Zuhair Khouri, Raouf Abu Jabar, Maulud Abdul Qader, the dean of the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Jordan, the dean of the Faculty of Medicine at the Jordan University of Science and Technology, the director general of the Royal Medical Services, Nabih Moammar, Abdullah Abbadi, Subhih Maani, and Zaha Mango.

The King expressed hope that the board will now appoint an administrative council to undertake the centre's management and a technical council to handle the technical work.

In his letter to the prime minister, the King stated that "the legislation should not contravene Jordanian laws and regulations. The centre should not seek profitability and must coordinate its work with the other authorities concerned with cancer treatment."

Al Amal Cancer Centre's 120-bed, in-patient facility is equipped for highly advanced therapies such as

bone marrow transplant and adult and paediatric chemotherapy.

It also includes outpatient clinics and radio diagnostics, radiotherapy, and nuclear medicine departments.

The centre, a non-governmental, non-profit organisation, was created through contributions from Jordanian citizens and institutions. Organisations in the Netherlands and other countries assisted in setting up and supplying equipment for the centre, considered to be the first comprehensive centre for cancer research in the region.

NGO workshop concludes with goal of capacity-building

By Hind-Lara Mango
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — During a workshop on the need for a programme to enhance the capacities of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in the development of the Middle East, twenty NGO specialists from Palestine, Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, and Egypt

affirmed that this plan of action could only succeed through regional cooperation and capacity-building.

During discussions on draft recommendations generated out of the three-day workshop held in Amman and co-organised by the Friedrich-Naumann Foundation (FNF) and the International Management and Training Institute (IMTI), participants pointed to the importance of joint NGO activities to achieve sustainable contacts among both regional and European NGOs.

Ulrich Vogt, FNF director and representative in Jordan, stressed the importance of BUNIAN, a European Union co-financed NGO programme, as an instrument for better NGO cooperation and capacity-building.

Dr. Vogt told the Jordan Times that BUNIAN's two-year agenda focuses on better networking amongst regional NGOs through capacity-building measures.

"Another outcome of the workshop was the consensus among participants that they did not know much about EU NGOs, even though most participants have regional and international experience."

Dr. Vogt explained that there are many regional NGOs of high standards that European NGOs could learn much from "in an open partnership."

The absence of Arab NGOs in Europe was noted and the FNF director said this would be taken into consideration, as BUNIAN is a flexible structure and open to ideas. Plans are already under way for a conference on EU and Arab NGOs in April.

Technical issues such as the relevance of follow-up in training were covered, and Dr. Vogt explained that a mechanism for this training had already been started, comprising twelve events slated to take place within the next two years.

Training will be in the field of management development, financial management, project design, and proposal writing and negotiation.

Dr. Vogt stated that this plan of action also embodies leadership and democracy, and policy analysis and formulation.

Majali calls on Israeli government to end 'intransigence,' display good faith

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali has called on the Israeli government to end its intransigence, which he said has been obstructing the peace process.

During an interview published Friday in the United Arab Emirates newspaper Al Bayan, Dr. Majali also urged Israel to display good faith and prove its credibility in the peace process, stressing that with a lack of confidence there can be no peace.

Accusing the Israelis of failing to display good

intentions and lacking credibility in their dealings with the Arabs, the prime minister said the Arab countries have in contrast manifested good will and a genuine tendency of confidence-building.

Asserting that the peace process is currently facing a real deadlock on all tracks, the prime minister expressed hope that it would not be long before matters again move in the right direction.

Dr. Majali said Jordan participated in the peace process and signed several

agreements with Israel as an expression of its genuine desire to ensure a comprehensive peace, adding that Jordan will, nevertheless, pursue efforts to remove all the barriers that currently obstruct the path of peace.

On Jordanian-Arab relations, the prime minister said Jordan maintains excellent ties with all Arab states in general and the Gulf countries in particular, and expressed hope that the Arab countries will unite to deal with the issues facing their nation.

Jordan rejects all moves

to partition any Arab country, be it Iraq or others, and can never accept interference by a foreign power to partition Arab lands, he stated.

Referring to the Doha Economic Summit scheduled for next month, Dr. Majali said Jordan will not assume a unilateral position on this meeting.

The Kingdom will abide by the Arab countries' decisions and would not attend the Doha meeting if this is the decision of the majority of Arab states.

Husband strangles wife for 'honour'; man opens fire in Baqaa, killing one

By Rana Hussein
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Authorities are questioning a 25-year old man who Thursday allegedly strangled his wife to death in Mafrqa for reasons of "honour," according to official sources.

The 20-year old woman, who was not identified by officials, was strangled by her husband, identified only as S. K., in their house in Manshiet Sulah town of Mafrqa, official sources told the Jordan Times Friday.

The sources added that the man turned himself in to police immediately after the murder and confessed will-

ingly to killing his wife.

"The man claimed to have strangled his wife with her own scarf in the name of 'honour,'" the official source said without further elaboration.

Police contacted by the Jordan Times Friday evening confirmed that a woman was killed but refused to reveal any information.

The victim became the 18th woman reportedly killed in a crime of "honour" in the Kingdom since the beginning of this year.

Last year, police records indicated that 19 women were slain in Jordan in the name of "honour."

Meanwhile, Baqaa Criminal Prosecutor Mohammad Ma'ayrah is questioning a 28-year old man, who Thursday reportedly opened fire randomly in the Baqaa Refugee Camp and killed a woman, according to an official source.

The source said that the suspect, who was injured in Thursday's shooting incident, was acting "out of rage after his family accused him of instigating his younger brother to throw acid water at the 30-year old victim, Manal A., few days before the incident occurred."

According to the source, the suspect, identified as Khalid M., told investigators

that he was enraged about his family's accusations, grabbed a gun, went out to the street, and started shooting in the air.

"Khalid claimed that a bullet accidentally struck Manal, who was standing outside at the time of the shooting, and that another bullet struck him in the eye," the official source said.

The official source said police are investigating other possible motives behind the shooting incident, adding that Prosecutor Ma'ayrah is questioning all the involved parties and is expected to announce the results of his investigation Sunday.

Jordanian-Japanese programme provides training to Palestinians

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan and Japan Thursday started a joint training programme for 20 Palestinians in the field of electric power at the National Electric Power Company (NEPCO).

The two-week course, called "Third Country Training Programme," was established in 1991 to improve Palestinian theoretical and practical abilities in the field of electric power, according to a statement by the Japanese embassy.

The \$139,000 programme,

supported by Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), aims at training Palestinians from Gaza and the West Bank, the statement said.

According to the statement, the programme has been implemented in selected host countries whose technical standard reaches high enough to provide technical training to the other nationals, even though the host nations are still receiving technical support from developed countries.

"The government of Japan regards Jordan as such a host country, capable of imple-

menting the Third Country Training Programme for the Middle East and the North Africa Region, and accredits NEPCO and Royal Scientific Society as implementing agencies where Jordanian instructors give training courses on electric power, systems engineering, and medical equipment maintenance to Arab nationals, with the financial assistance from Japan," the statement added.

So far, 80 Palestinians have participated in the Third Country Training Programme in Jordan.

Metrology, standards conference opens tomorrow

AMMAN (J.T.) — The German Agency for Technical Cooperation (GTZ) in Amman and the Jordan Institution for Standards and Metrology (JISM) Sunday will open the International GTZ Conference on Standards, Metrology, Testing, and Quality Management (MSTQ), according to a JISM press release.

This meeting is arranged for experts who are managing MSTQ projects in Jordan and the Middle East, Asia, Africa, Latin America, and Eastern Europe, the statement continued.

The conference aims at exchanging experiences and ideas in light of the increasing role of MSTQ activities in removing technical barriers to trade, the announcement read.

The one-week conference will include visits to JISM and to the Royal Scientific Society. Moreover, the meeting will discuss subjects of great importance to Jordan in light of its efforts to join the WTO and the EU-Jordan Partnership Agreement, according to the statement.

Members of the private sector are invited to discuss subjects such as accreditation, certification, industrial property rights in Europe, national calibration services, and safety aspects of industrial plants with the experts, the statement concluded.

WHAT'S GOING ON

KOREAN FILM FESTIVAL

* Two Korean films entitled "Fly High, Run Far" and "The Pinwheel" at the Royal Cultural Centre at 4:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. respectively.

FILM

* "German film 'Elfenbein' at Goethe-Institut, Jabal Amman, at 4:30 p.m.

PLAY

* Children's play "Shahrour and Traffic Rules" at the Royal Cultural Centre at 10:00 a.m. (daily until Oct. 16).

EXHIBITIONS

* "The Project of the Essence, Aspects of the Italian Paintings in the 90s" at the Faculty of Fine Arts, Yarmouk University, until Oct. 22.

* Exhibition of paintings and weaving entitled "Murmurs of Our Land" by Rihan Ghassib and Bani Hamida at Bani Hamida House (Tel. 658896/7), until Oct. 30.

* Exhibition of Catalan masters of the 20th century entitled "Aura Mediterranea" at the Jordan National Gallery of Fine Arts, until Oct. 28 (except Tuesdays).

* Quilt exhibition "Piecing It Together" by Ms. Virginia Harris at the American Centre, Abdoun, until Oct. 20.



Amman Governor Talaat Nawayseh Friday registers new candidates for the upcoming parliamentary elections. Some government employees reported to work yesterday to begin the registration procedures, which are scheduled to last until Oct. 12 (Petra photo)

Landmine foes clinch Nobel Peace Prize

OSLO (AFP) — The International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL) and its U.S. coordinator Jody Williams won the Nobel Peace Prize on Friday "for their work for the banning and clearing of anti-personnel mines," the Nobel Committee said.

The International Campaign is deeply grateful to the Nobel Committee for its recognition of our work to ban this insidious, indiscriminate weapon," Ms. Williams, 47, said in a statement issued in Washington.

The \$1 million award is also seen as a tribute to Diana, Princess of Wales, who was a strong supporter of ICBL before her death in an Aug. 31 car crash in Paris.

Diana made special trips to Angola and Bosnia to support a total ban on the weapons, which kill or maim 26,000 people annually around the world.

The ICBL's efforts are to culminate in December with the signing in Ottawa of an International Treaty against Landmines. A draft treaty, which will go into effect six months after the 40th country signs on, had been agreed upon during a conference in Oslo in September.

The ICBL and Jody Williams started a process which in the space of a few years changed a ban on anti-

personnel mines from a vision to a feasible reality," the Nobel jury said.

The treaty is "to a considerable extent a result of their important work," the jury noted.

Ms. Williams told CNN television she was "a little stunned."

"We were thrilled enough when the treaty was negotiated in Oslo last month. Then to receive this recognition on top of that ... it's a pretty fabulous year," she said.

She felt the award would "add pressure to those countries that have not come on board," and said the ICBL now "will focus its attention on those countries."

Washington has balked at signing the treaty, saying it fails to protect U.S. soldiers, especially on the tense Korean Peninsula where it had sought a nine-year exemption on enforcing the treaty.

Anti-landmine activists in Cambodia, one of the world's most heavily-mined countries with an estimated four to six million buried, hailed the prize.

"The prize will contribute very much to the campaign against landmines. Everywhere in the world when they award this prize ... it contributes a lot to future work," said Sam

Sotha, the National Director of the Cambodia Mines Action Centre (CMAC).

The Nobel jury called the ICBL "a model for similar peace in the future, (which) could prove of decisive importance to the international effort for disarmament and peace."

The umbrella organisation, the 15th to win the Nobel Peace Prize, had been one of the hottest tips to win this year's prize.

It was created in 1992 and comprises over 1,000 local and international organisations from 60 countries in the fields of development, environment, arms control, human rights and medical assistance.

The ICBL is a network "through which it has been possible to express and mediate a broad wave of popular commitment in an unprecedented way," the jury said, calling the organisation's efforts "a convincing example of an effective policy for peace."

There are about 110 million anti-personnel mines scattered in 64 countries around the world.

Worldwide, there is one casualty every 22 minutes, and 2,000 landmine deaths every month, most of them women or children.

It would take \$33 billion and 11 centuries, at the cur-

rent pace, to clear the 110 million active mines scattered in 64 countries around the world.

Russia, China and the United States are the leading producers of landmines.

"Such mines maim and kill indiscriminately and are a major threat to the civilian populations and to the social and economic development of the many countries affected," the jury said.

Ms. Williams, who lives in the northeastern U.S. state of Vermont, has spoken extensively about landmines. She is the author of "After the Guns Fall Silent: The Enduring Legacy of Landmines."

Alfred Nobel, the Swedish scientist and industrialist who created the prize in his will in 1895, wanted to honour those who "shall have done the most or the best work for fraternity between nations, for the abolition or reduction of standing armies and for the holding and promotion of peace congresses."

Ironically, the Russian-educated Nobel's career centred on developing better explosives, including dynamite. As a young man, he travelled to Saint Petersburg in the 1850s to assist his father develop torpedoes and mines.



Jody Williams (right) hugs one of her companions as NGO (non-governmental organisations) delegates give their applause to the landmine-delegates (Reuters photo)

Yeltsin 'will back landmine ban objective'

STRASBOURG

Russian President Boris Yeltsin said that Moscow "supports and will support the objective" of banning use and production of anti-personnel mines with a treaty to be signed in Ottawa.

He made the pledge in a joint statement with French President Jacques Chirac opening the afternoon session of the Council of Europe summit here, but did not elaborate.

In a last-minute addition to his address opening the summit earlier, Mr. Chirac had called on all Council of Europe members to sign the ban, agreed in Oslo at a two-week conference on Sept. 18. Referring to Mr. Chirac's appeal, Mr. Yeltsin said: "We support the objective which we are pursuing in order to reach a solution and the signing of the convention."

Mr. Chirac welcomed Mr. Yeltsin's decision to examine the issue of anti-personnel mines and to support an evolution tending in the direction of the convention to be signed in Ottawa in December.

Mr. Yeltsin's comment marks a softening of Moscow's position on a ban on anti-personnel mines.

On Oct. 1, Foreign Minister Yevgeny Primakov, on a visit to Ottawa, rebuffed a call by Canada to sign the treaty, saying Moscow could not do so for "technical" reasons.

Mr. Chirac's appeal on mines earlier was directed primarily at Russia, which along with China and India, also suppliers of cheap anti-personnel mines, was not among the countries which on Sept. 18 pledged at Oslo to sign the Ottawa protocol.

Promoters of the ban are keen for Russia to sign in order to add pressure on the United States, which has declared its unwillingness to back the ban.

Around 100 countries have said they will sign the ban.

Nobel Peace Prize announcement draws positive world reactions

Reuters

EXILED CHINESE activist Han Dongfang said Friday he was glad the international campaign to ban landmines had won the 1997 Nobel Peace Prize but asked the world community not to forget dissidents jailed in China.

"I'm glad for all those who are campaigning to stop these terrible devices which mutilate people," Mr. Han told Reuters after hearing the Nobel Peace Prize announcement.

"But as one of the Chinese dissidents I feel sorry, especially for Wei Jingsheng and Wang Dan who remain in jail and need all the support they can get from the world community," he said.

Mr. Wei and Mr. Wang were on the Nobel list and were considered leading contenders.

Mr. Wei, 47, is regarded by many as the father of China's struggling democracy movement. He was sentenced in late 1995 to 14 years in jail

for plotting to overthrow the government. He had previously served 14-1/2 years of a 15-year jail term for subversion.

Mr. Han was a protest leader in the ill-fated 1989 democracy movement in Beijing and was jailed after the Tiananmen square crackdown by the People's Liberation Army. He lives in exile in Hong Kong, a special administrative region of China since July 1.

Earlier this week, China said it would be "unimaginable" if the Nobel Peace Prize was awarded to Mr. Wei, saying he had violated Chinese laws.

Many Western governments and human rights groups have accused China of violating the basic freedoms of its people. Beijing argues that feeding and clothing one-fifth of humanity is more important than political rights.

Meanwhile, mine clearing experts in Afghanistan, one of the world's most heavily mined countries, said Friday

they are thrilled by the award of the 1997 Nobel Peace Prize to the International Campaign to Ban Landmines.

"This is great, it couldn't go to a better cause," said Sarah Russell of the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance to Afghanistan, the umbrella body that funds much of the mine clearing in Afghanistan.

The United Nations estimates 10 million mines and thousands of other pieces of unexploded ordnance are strewn across the country from 20 years of war that still continues.

An estimated 20 to 25 Afghans are injured every day by landmines and a total of 400,000 people have been maimed by them in the country.

The devices have prevented life returning to normal even where there is no fighting because Afghan farmers are frightened to go back into their fields for fear of losing

their lives or limbs. Many of the victims are children, forced by poverty to forage for firewood in areas they know to be dangerous.

The International Committee of the Red Cross has described the use of landmines as a gross violation of human rights.

The award of the Nobel Peace Prize was also hailed as a major breakthrough in Cambodia, where hardly a family does not have a victim of the weapon to mourn.

"This is surprising and wonderful news," said Sam Sotha, national director of the Cambodia Mines Action Centre (CMAC), which coordinates attempts to clear the estimated four to six million mines buried in the strife-torn country.

"I know her very well, she and the campaign deserve this," he said.

"The prize will contribute very much to campaign against landmines. Everywhere in the world

when they award this prize ... it contributes a lot to future work. Winning the prize is a very, very positive contribution."

One in every 236 Cambodians — an estimated 40,000 people — is an amputee as a result of landmine explosions and as many as 300 people are killed or maimed by mines per month, aid agencies say.

Cambodian Ministry of Information spokesman Sieng Lapresse noted how Ms. Williams had made Cambodia a priority in its world awareness programme.

The award "shows that the landmine campaign had a really good vision and recognised the plight of the Cambodian people and others around the world (affected by mines)," he said.

"We must not be hostages to landmines."

Mr. Sotha said the campaign still had much to achieve in banning future production and use of the

devices by all countries and in clearing those already in the ground.

The United States has opposed a total ban because it says mines are still needed on the Korean Peninsula.

"We still have a long way to go," said Mr. Sotha. According to official statistics, Cambodia, which has said it will sign the treaty, is one of the world's most heavily mined countries.

The mines were planted by a wide variety of opposing armies — government troops, Khmer Rouge guerrillas, the Vietnamese occupation force and the resistance to it in the 1980s. They remain active and deadly long after each conflict has ended.

At the current rate of clearance, demining experts estimate it would take more than a century to remove all the mines in Cambodia, but Mr. Sotha said he hoped with greater awareness of the problem leading to more donations, that figure could

be cut to 25 to 30 years.

Once injured, many of the Cambodian victims are unemployable, become burdens to their already impoverished families and are forced into a life of begging.

In addition to the human cost of landmines, the devices also render huge expanses of arable land unusable in Cambodia and kill or injure animals that are vital to the economy which is dominated by rural agriculture.

Despite the grim statistics and public support of the universal ban, mines continue to be laid by government troops and resistance forces in the country's north and northwest.

The Cambodian Red Cross said this week that landmine casualties — deaths or injuries — more than doubled from 51 to 114 between July and August as fighting intensified in the five provinces that make up the region.

Italian dramatist, actor Dario Fo wins Nobel Literature Prize

STOCKHOLM (AFP) — Italian dramatist and actor Dario Fo was awarded the 1997 Nobel Prize for Literature Thursday for work emulating "the jesters of the Middle Ages in scourging authority and upholding the dignity of the downtrodden."

The Swedish Academy said. In a scene that could have come from one of his own plays, Fo, 71, said he had been "stunned" to learn that he won the prize, while his wife was telling a television station they knew it was in the bag two weeks ago.

Fo insisted he only learned of the prize while driving along a highway from Rome to Milan in northern Italy.

"Another car pulled up to mine with a sign that said 'Dario, you've won the Nobel'," Fo told a reporter who reached him on his mobile phone.

"It's no surprise," his wife, Franca Roma, said in a television interview in Milan. "We were expecting it because we knew two weeks ago. We kept the secret and told no one."

Fo is a leading figure in modern farce and political drama, but had not been tipped for the prestigious prize. His collected plays include some 70 works, where he often alludes to the medieval jesters and their comedy and mysteries, as in his breakthrough play "Mistero Buffo" from 1969.

He has been inspired by commedia dell'arte and 20th century writers such as Vladimir Mayakovsky and Bertolt Brecht.

In awarding the prize, the Swedish Academy said: "For many years Fo has performed all over the world, perhaps more than any other contemporary dramatist, and his influence has been considerable. He is the one merits the epithet of jester in the true meaning of that word."

His strength is "in the creation of texts that simultaneously amuse, engage and provide perspectives," the jury said.

"As in commedia dell'arte, they are always open for creative additions and dislocations, continually encouraging the actors to improvise, which means

that the audience is activated in a remarkable way," it said.

Fo, the sixth Italian to win the prize, made his debut as an actor in 1952 in Milan after studying art and architecture.

"With a blend of laughter and gravity he opens our eyes to abuses and injustices in society and also the wider historical perspective in which they can be placed," the jury said, describing Fo as an "extremely serious satirist with a multifaceted oeuvre."

"His independence and clear-sightedness have led him to take great risks, whose consequences he has been made to feel while at the same time experiencing enormous response from widely differing quarters," the jury said.

Fo almost fell victim to a kidnapping in May but police arrested one of his would-be captors in another case and he confessed to the plot.

The jury singled out "Morte accidentale di un anarchico" ("Accidental Death of an Anarchist")

from 1970 as a "high point" of Fo's extensive oeuvre. Its background were the right-wing extremist bomb attacks of 1969, which were blamed by the authorities and the press on the anarchists.

During interrogations in Milan, a suspect "fell" from a fifth-floor window. The play deals with these interrogations, which are gradually taken over by a Hamlet-like figure "who possesses the kind of lunacy that lays bare the lies of officialdom," the jury said.

Fo's opposition to conformism, the courage of his convictions, and his political and social commitment, have involved him in numerous court cases and controversies with the Italian state, police, censors, television and even the Vatican — the Pope had argued that "Mistero Buffo" had "desecrated Italian religious feelings."

In 1980, Fo, who is a member of Italy's Refounded Communist Party, was refused a visa for a performance in the United States because of his membership in "Soccorso

Rosso," an organisation supporting prison inmates.

The jury also noted such works as "Non si paga! Non si paga!" (We Can't Pay We Won't Pay!) from 1974, and "Clacson, trombette e pernacchi" (Trumpets and Raspberries), from 1981.

In recent years, together with his wife and actress and writer Franca Rac, Fo has dealt with women's issues in several plays.

His most recent work, "Il diavolo con le zinne" (The Devil with Boobs) — directed at phenomena in today's society — had its long-awaited premiere in Messina, Sicily, at the beginning of August. It is a satiric comedy set in the Renaissance and its protagonists are a zealous judge and a woman possessed by the devil.

Fo will receive the record prize sum of 7.5 million kronor (\$1 million) from the hands of King Carl XVI Gustaf at the official prize ceremony in Stockholm on Dec. 10, the anniversary of the death of prize creator Alfred Nobel in 1896.



Italian playwright Dario Fo embraces his wife Franca Roma as he arrives in Milan after finding out he has won the 1997 Nobel Literature Prize (Reuters photo)

Apparent meteor seen over Texas

WASHINGTON (AFP) — An apparent meteor streaked over west Texas, triggering dozens of telephone calls to local police with excited and alarmed reports of a fireball in the sky, police said Friday.

The object landed Thursday near Hueco state park, some 32 kilometres east of El Paso, in an unpopulated area. Mark Ball of the El Paso Sheriff's Department told AFP.

"We believe we have a crater located but there's nothing left," said Mr. Ball. "It disintegrated."

Residents reported hearing a sonic boom and seeing a brilliant fireball shooting across the sky around 1 p.m. (1900 GMT).

"There was a bright yellow-orange streak, then it came down and from that point it just made a big boom of a bright ball of fire," one resident was

quoted as saying on local television.

Vapour trails were sighted as far away as Las Cruces in southern New Mexico, 60 kilometres north of El Paso, police said.

A military helicopter was dispatched to the area to do an infrared search for remains of the falling object but found nothing, local television reported.



At least 1 hurricane

hurricane

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Yeltsin
'will back'
landmines
ban
objective

STRASBOURG (AFP) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin said Friday that Moscow "supports and will support the objective" of banning the use and production of anti-personnel mines in line with a treaty due to be signed in Ottawa.

He made the pledge in a joint statement with French President Jacques Chirac opening the afternoon session of a Council of Europe summit here, but did not elaborate.

In a last-minute addition to his address opening the summit earlier, Mr. Chirac had called on all Council of Europe members to sign the treaty agreed in Oslo at a two-week conference Sept. 18. Referring to Mr. Chirac's appeal, Mr. Yeltsin said: "We support and will support the objective which we are pursuing in order to reach a solution and signing of the convention."

Mr. Chirac welcomed Mr. Yeltsin's decision to support the objective, saying it was a "very important step" towards the signing of the convention.

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Vehicles belonging to Mexico's national telephone company lie buried under a river of mud after Hurricane Pauline devastated Mexico's famous tourist resort of Acapulco (Reuters photo)

At least 122 dead as hurricane lashes Mexico

ACAPULCO, Mexico (R) — Bodies floated amid debris in the streets of Acapulco Thursday after Hurricane Pauline's assault on southern Mexico in which at least 122 people died and dozens more were missing.

A state of shock settled over the water-logged city after Pauline tore through it overnight with winds of up to 240 kph and dumped so much rain that steeply sloping streets turned into raging rivers.

State Chief Attorney Antonio Hernandez told reporters that 102 bodies had been found in the city.

Many were plucked from sidewalks and the beachfront, where they had been dragged by torrents more than chest-deep. Cars were tossed about like boats and trees were uprooted.

The Mexican Red Cross appealed nationwide for donations of clothes, medicines, blankets and food to help the victims. Thousands of troops, police and civil defence workers fanned out across the disaster areas in a giant rescue effort.

TV broadcaster Televisa showed images of a drowned baby lying in a cooler box where it had presumably been placed as a last resort for safety; two people sadly scooped out the water.

Angel Aguirre, governor of Guerrero state which includes Acapulco, said residents were appalled.

"We can't remember ... ever having seen in our history something which has caused as much damage to Guerrero as this," he said.

Government officials said Pauline was the deadliest storm to strike Mexico since Hurricane Gilbert smashed into the Caribbean coast in 1988, killing 450 people.

Before reaching Acapulco, Pauline steamrolled over the coast of southern Mexico, flattening fragile fishing villages, ripping up roads and bridges and tossing splintered trees about the countryside like toothpicks.

Guerrero state authorities said five people were drowned near the Oaxacan border. In Oaxaca, the government said 14 people were killed and 15 others were unaccounted for.

Another person was killed in Chiapas state, the Red Cross said.

A couple from Seattle, Will Quillian and Katherine Proctor, were camped out in their Volkswagen van when the hurricane ripped through Oaxaca state, ripping off the roof and forcing them to sleep in a concrete bathroom stall.

"Our surf boards were flying out," Mr. Proctor said. "They (the townspeople) don't have anything left. There's nothing. We feel so lucky."

The U.S. Hurricane Centre said Pauline was 96 kilometres north of the Pacific port of Lazaro Cardenas, with sustained winds of 135 kph that kept it in the hurricane bracket, though it was fast losing steam.

It was expected to hit near the port of Manzanillo, a town of some 125,000 inhabitants 520 kilometres southwest of Mexico City. Manzanillo civil defence officials said 10,000 people in the city were on evacuation alert.

Foreign tourists in Acapulco, a city of one million people, were stranded as phone lines went down, power was cut and flights were cancelled. At times the airport was waist-deep in water. There were no reports of fatalities among tourists.

Experts said the severity of the storm might have been made worse by El Niño, a weather phenomenon that warms southern Pacific waters and leads to more frequent and severe storms. Mexico each year suffers hurricanes on its Caribbean coast, but strong Pacific storms seldom hit the coast hard.

A large cruise ship, the Veendam, with 2,000 passengers and crew on board, narrowly escaped the storm by sailing south from Acapulco late Wednesday despite raging seas churned up by Pauline. Port Captain Hector Gomez Ruiz said.

City authorities declared Acapulco a disaster area and President Ernesto Zedillo, on a state visit to Germany, ordered three cabinet members to the area to coordinate relief efforts and sent his condolences to families of the victims.

U.S. bans Tamil Tigers

COLOMBO (AFP) — The ban on Tamil Tiger rebels in the United States was welcomed by the local press Friday but it warned the move would also pressure Sri Lanka to uphold human rights and politically end the island's bitter ethnic war.

The privately-owned Island newspaper said a U.S. decision to list Sri Lanka's Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) as a terrorist organisation will reopen the question why the Colombo government had failed to prosecute the rebels.

U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright said Wednesday that members of the designated groups would be ineligible for visas to visit the United States and that any fund-raising activities would be frozen under an anti-terrorism law signed by President Bill Clinton in April 1996.

"As of today it is a crime to provide funds, weapons or other types of tangible support to any of the designated organisations," Ms. Albright said.

The ban will be for a period of two years and could be revoked by Congress. Although funding of the "terrorist organisations" is banned, contributions limited to medicine or religious materials may be allowed under the law.

The island newspaper in its editorial, headlined "Terrorism: beginning of end," said that the U.S. action was a "tremendous gain" for the Colombo government but the fight was far from over.

"One reason why the developed world turned against Sri Lanka after the anti-Tamil riots of 1983 was because of violations of human rights," the island said.

"This (U.S. decision) casts a tremendous responsibility on the Sri Lankan government, armed forces and the people to safeguard rights of minorities and prevent violations of human rights."

The state-owned Daily News described the U.S. ban on the Tigers as a turning point in the island's dragging Tamil separatist war which has claimed over 50,000 lives since 1972.

However, it would be highly premature to dance in the streets. With this blacklisting, the LTTE may have suffered a major body blow but it is unlikely to be felled by it," the Daily News said.

The paper also echoed the government's call Thursday to the international community for a collective ban on the LTTE and a blockade against arms supplies reaching the guerrillas in the island nation's northeast.

The first LTTE statement issued from its London office since the U.S. action was announced made no reference to the move that would block fund-raising activities.

However, a Tiger spokesman in London, Anion Rajah, was quoted as saying in a British Broadcasting Corp. (BBC) Radio programme that they were unaffected by the U.S. blacklisting and that they only received voluntary contributions.

India banned the LTTE after the group was implicated in the May 1991 assassination of former Indian Premier Rajiv Gandhi and Malaysia in February last year outlawed pro-Tiger demonstrations in that country.

The U.S. move also comes at a time when the Colombo government is pressing ahead with a power-sharing arrangement that seeks to turn the country into a de facto federal state in exchange for ethnic peace.

Hague spells out vision of a more tolerant Conservative Party

BLACKPOOL, England (AFP) — William Hague was winding up the Conservative Party conference here Friday with a rallying call for a more open and tolerant party where people counted as much as economics.

In a speech to 3,500 delegates, who have spent the past week taking stock of the party's crushing May electoral defeat, Mr. Hague will say he wants to see a "conservatism that is tolerant, that believes that freedom is about more than economics, that believes that freedom does not stop at the shop-counter."

Mr. Hague's version of a modern, open party comes just a day after former Cabinet Minister Michael Portillo made a bold pitch to redefine the territory the Conservatives should occupy and the kind of people it should embrace.

Mr. Portillo questioned the traditional family unit by insisting that stable families can exist outside marriage and urged a more per-

missive approach towards sexual misdemeanours in political life.

Mr. Hague, who said he backed every word of that vision, will tell Tory representatives — buoyed by the feeling that their party is at last beginning to face up to its mistakes and its defects — that it has been a week of reflection and reconstruction.

"I want to tell you about a democratic, popular conservatism that listens, that is determined to show it cares... that is rooted in its traditions but embraces the future... that is resolute in its support for the nation."

Mr. Hague also stressed Tory support for the family. But he said: "Let's be alive to the 21st century, let's be tolerant at the way people wish to live when it doesn't damage the interests of other people and that doesn't conflict with our support for families."

England seaside resort, highlighted by a fiery debate Wednesday on reform in which the rank and file signalled an end to the "leaders know best" philosophy.

Thursday's statement by Mr. Portillo, seen as a potential party leader until his election defeat, stressed unreserved Tory support for the family and individuals facing up to responsibilities to their children.

"But we admire those many people who are doing an excellent job bringing up children on their own... for a younger generation in particular, old taboos have given way to less judgemental attitudes about the span of human relationships," he said.

Mr. Hague also stressed Tory support for the family. But he said: "Let's be alive to the 21st century, let's be tolerant at the way people wish to live when it doesn't damage the interests of other people and that doesn't conflict with our support for families."

Earlier it had emerged that the Tory leader had written a letter of support to the Tory gay group, Torche.

But there were early signs of a backlash from some party heavyweights.

The party's social security affairs spokesman Iain Duncan Smith told the conference that single parent families were "more likely to be more caught up in crime."

He said: "The key point we must make as Conservatives is that we don't want to have the pendulum swing against the traditional family."

Prodi sees swift outcome to Italy's new political crisis

ROME (AFP) — Romano Prodi, who has quit as Italy's prime minister, predicted Friday a swift outcome to the latest political crisis that has angered Italian citizens and put the far-left Refounded Communists in the firing line.

"I can assure you that there will be a swift solution," Mr. Prodi told Italian reporters as he arrived for a Council of Europe meeting in Strasbourg, France.

He noted that what happens next rests in the hands of President Oscar Luigi Scalfaro, "who will choose the solution."

Mr. Prodi added that, as he is now serving as interim prime minister at Mr. Scalfaro's request, "my ultimate duty... is to explain that there is still a strong, capable Italy."

Italy woke up with anger and concern Friday, a day after the exit of Mr. Prodi's centre-left government, with some commentators calling the development "dramatic" or even "dangerous" for the nation.

"What seemed politically illogical, economically harmful, and suicidal for the left has unfolded step by step before the public's eyes," La Repubblica said in an editorial.

What has taken place, the newspaper said, was "dangerous for the country, dramatic for the Italian left (and) risks compromising our country's hard road towards Maastricht."

Mr. Prodi gave in his resignation Thursday after the far-left Refounded Communists snubbed 11th-hour proposals he had made for their support of his 1998 draft austerity budget.

Though Mr. Prodi remains interim prime minister until a new government is formed, Italy's latest political crisis boded ill for its hopes of joining Europe's single currency.

Besides La Repubblica, other major Italian newspapers Friday slammed the Refounded Communists for triggering the crisis.

government in Italy since World War II dominated by the left.

Thursday, demonstrations in support of Mr. Prodi were organised by labour unions at major factories in Florence, as well as by left-wing activists in Bologna.

"I have lost my illusions," one young worker in Rome said. "Italy will never change."

"I don't believe it. It's like a mad machine that can no longer be controlled," added a student, reflecting the cynicism of many Italians towards their governments.

Mr. Prodi's budget was supposed to show the rest of Europe that Italy had the fiscal discipline and political stability worth of membership in European Monetary Union.

The Refounded Communists, on whose 34 deputies Mr. Prodi's government depended in the lower house of parliament, balked at the draft, saying it would be too harmful to Italy's proletariat and to its poor.

Interdependence

A NEW concept has appeared in the international community over the past 20 years, called "international interdependence." It means that the world is like a big family, and every country exists within this family. No nation can live completely independent of the others, nor can do as it always has, disregarding the interests and existence of other countries.

This is the way it should be in human society. It is when every nation realises the true meaning of interdependence that it will tend to work out differences through negotiations or agreements that are in the interests of all, rather than resorting to fighting, which merely dissipates each other's strength.

Establishing mainstream values

A parallel development with the concept of interdependence is the establishment of mainstream values. The two major values, free-market economics and democracy, have emerged since the industrial revolution, becoming highly influential major concepts in international affairs. Of course, they have been challenged by other political philosophies in the meantime, such as imperialism, Nazism and communism. However, at the end of the 20th century, these once formidable challenges have been consigned to the "dustbin of history," while free-market economics and democracy have indisputably become mainstream international values.

The ROC and Global Participation

When Dr. Sun Yat-sen, the founding father of the Republic of China, was campaigning to overthrow the Ch'ing dynasty 86 years ago, he vowed to found a republic based on the Three Principles of the People, i.e., nationalism, democracy, and the people's livelihood. These principles in essence conform with free-market economics and democracy.

Eighty-six years later, the amount of territory under the direct jurisdiction of the Taiwan (ROC) government is far less than after the establishment of the People's Republic of China. However, the spirit in which it was founded carried on Dr. Sun's philosophy. What is different is that Dr. Sun's philosophy has become fact in Taiwan (ROC) of today.

Decades of effort by Taiwan (ROC) have created remarkable achievements. Taiwan's (ROC) per capita income has reached US\$12,000, and its foreign reserves amount to US\$90 billion, the third largest worldwide. Taiwan (ROC) is the world's 13th largest trading nation and a major capital exporter. In terms of political development, elections for local officials have been held for over four decades, and county/municipal council members, county magistrates, mayors, the provincial governor and the national president are all directly elected. In terms of multiparty politics, two opposition parties with substantial parliamentary presences, the Democratic Progressive Party and the New Party, share the political limelight with the ruling Kuomintang-party. Taiwan's (ROC) success is not only enjoyed by all citizens, it also explicitly proclaims to the developing countries of the world: work hard, master the right approaches, and you too can overcome poverty and become a modern nation.

However, despite such achievements, Taiwan (ROC) is not accorded an even vaguely commensurate status or treatment by the international community. It has been expelled from the United Nations and nearly all inter-governmental organisations. Taiwan's (ROC) application to join the World Trade Organisation cannot be acted upon until after that of the Chinese mainland. It does not share formal diplomatic relations with most countries. Taiwan's (ROC) government is not after independence; what it seeks is a China reunified with liberty, democracy and prosperity. However, this issue can no way be solved by accepting the mainland's demands. To do so would be to destabilise Asia and the rest of the world. Taiwan (ROC) hopes to use peaceful exchanges to make the leaders of Peking understand that the Taiwan (ROC) experience is the best way to solve the problem of reunifying Taiwan (ROC) and the mainland. However, of course, this will take time. Until that day arrives, Taiwan (ROC) must take part in the global community and heighten its international presence. Otherwise, the disappearance of a country like Taiwan (ROC) that subscribes to mainstream nations of free-market economics and democracy would constitute a significant loss to the international community.

Conversely, if Taiwan (ROC) has the opportunity to play a more constructive role in the international community, in the short-term it could directly contribute to the world what Taiwan (ROC) has gained from its political and economic advancements. In the long-term, should the mainland make progress and modernise as a result of peaceful exchanges with Taiwan (ROC), and become a responsible member of the international community, this would be Taiwan's (ROC) greatest contribution to the world.

Interdependence has become an increasingly important principle in the global community. Since the state of cross-strait relations directly affects the whole world, we sincerely hope the international community can be open-minded and listen to what Taiwan (ROC) has to say.



Kim Jong-il as he arrives in Moscow for the funeral of his father, Kim Il-sung (Reuters photo)

over Texas

over Texas

Jordan Times

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Lukewarm start to campaign

THE CAMPAIGN for the upcoming general elections was off to a lukewarm start yesterday in comparison with the election campaigns of 1993 and 1989. There are a variety of explanations for this kind of interest in the campaign for the 13th Parliament. These range from the repeated calls for boycotting the elections by the Islamists and other groups to the growing public mood of indifference to the heavy politicisation of the campaign, and even to parliamentary life itself. Opposition to holding the November elections stems of course from the "grievances" associated with the new one-person, one-vote election criterion and the new press and publications legislation which has resulted in the suspension of most weekly newspapers.

The impact of the one-person, one-vote formula has translated itself manifestly in strengthening the tribalist factor, whether by uniting families over the choice of one candidate or in fact sowing the seeds of division among the same tribe, which has in some cases promoted intra-tribal competition rather than inter-tribal rivalries.

Voters' lack of interest this time around may also stem from their conviction and conclusion that the performance of their elected representatives has not, after two parliamentary cycles, made much difference to their lives or changed the political course of events in any tangible way. The best evidence of the "insignificance" of Parliament or its "marginal role" in our political life, in the minds of many, is the repeated by-passing of the two Houses of Parliament by the Executive Branch in the pursuit of important legislative policies. The fact that the recent amendments to the 1993 Press and Publications Law were introduced as a temporary law must have convinced many voters that, on very important issues, the government is more than ready to ignore Parliament altogether and adopt controversial legislation that it may deem necessary for the conduct of its domestic and foreign policies away from parliamentary scrutiny.

Still the days and weeks that lie ahead would tell the true and full story about the just-started election campaign. With nearly four weeks left before voters go to the polls and cast their ballots, in accordance with their conscious and political persuasions, this period of time may turn out to be pregnant with events and changes that nobody has so far been able to predict and foresee.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

Al Dustour's Kamal Rashid said Amman has experienced a taste of real joy and jubilation over the release of Sheikh Ahmad Yassin from an Israeli jail. Delight overwhelmed the Jordanian and the Palestinian people over the success of the treatment of Hamas politburo leader Khaled Misha'al after the aborted attempt on his life, the writer added. He said Palestinians and Jordanians were happy that Sheikh Yassin is back among his own people and family, once again assuming the leadership of his movement which is bent on liberating the Palestinian lands. But he said the great joy of the people on both sides of the Jordan River came to an abrupt end with reports about the release of the two Israeli agents who committed the assassination attempt on Misha'al. Jordanians and Palestinians were shocked to see Mossad agents trying to kill a citizen not in Israel or the occupied areas but in Jordan. Rashid said. He questioned how peace can endure between Israel and Jordan if it is respected only by one side and why should Jordan release the agents who might have information that can help us avert future dangers?

Arab Al Yawm's Mohammed Subeichi praised the government's move to attract investors from the Arab countries to invest in the Kingdom's development projects. Subeichi said any investment in the Kingdom is far more beneficial to the national economy than the former financial aid that used to come from the Arab countries. Singling out a recent visit to Jordan by a Kuwaiti private sector delegation who invested \$200 million in the country's tourism industry, the writer said this investment succeeded due to the Jordanian private sector's endeavours, unlike the diplomatic efforts which since 1990 have not succeeded in restoring normal relations between Jordan and Kuwait. The writer said the investment is most likely to open the door for more investments by other countries in the Gulf region although some elements might still be working against the restoration of full relations. He said that because of the government's recent economic laws the Kingdom is now witnessing the dawn of economic progress.

Jordanian Perspective

The stakes were high, but Jordan overcame

NOW THAT the political dust has settled following the helicopter diplomacy Amman was engaged in, we have to ask: has Jordan exacted the fair price from Israel regarding its violation of the peace treaty articles, its attack on the country's sovereignty, underestimating the security services and taking for granted a pro-Israel stand by the political leadership whatever happens afterwards?

There is a widespread feeling that Jordan's actions resulted in a big plus for both His Majesty King Hussein and country. With the gradual revelations of clandestine meetings coupled by behind-the-scenes contacts we realise now the full impact of so many potential dangers and threats that could have taken place and would have hurled everybody into a whirlwind of uncontrollable violence, reactions and repercussions, in the whole region.

With the full facts being published, with security stakes soaring two weeks ago, Jordan came out the winner, but had the Kingdom overreacted, the losses could have proved significant.

On the domestic level, the return of all Jordanians in Israeli jails is a good deal in exchange for the two operatives with "so-called" Canadian passports. It is only natural to overlook the presence and easy departure of three other operatives who took refuge inside the embassy being part of the logistic support and medical team.

The streets of Amman are ripe with hypothetical scenarios and many "ifs." One of the more interesting ones came from a well-known lawyer who suggested, in a circulated letter, handing over the two operatives to the most militant participant in the Arab-Israeli conflict, Hizbollah in Lebanon so that they could barter their release for thousands of prisoners including Sheikh Ahmad Yassin, Abdul Karim Obeid, Mustafa Dirani and 17 other top leadership figures including Japanese, European, and Arab fighters.

Such a suggestion, if implemented, would make Jordan just another political gang rather than a state behaving in accordance with the principles of a respectable international community.

Had it been a zero-sum-equation, Israel would have been a big loser since:

1. The head of the Hamas politburo was not killed as planned.

2. Israel had to admit to the attempted assassination by providing the antidote, the medicine as well as the formula.

3. Israel is branded as the first country in the region to use a chemical weapon three weeks after a U.N. resolution was issued condemning their use universally.

4. The founder and spiritual leader of Hamas: Sheikh Ahmad Yassin was freed by a direct order from Prime Minister Netanyahu who had earlier considered Yassin as his arch-enemy.

5. Israel came out, internationally, as a rogue state exporting and sponsoring state terrorism.

6. Hamas was offered, from a media point of view, a worldwide podium which earned support and sympathy from all television viewers who heard its leaders advocate a message of pragmatism and moderation calling for the coexistence of both Palestinians and Israelis in peace and harmony. The old stereotype of Hamas as the bloodthirsty organisation was broken and replaced by a new image of a powerless victim: a disabled, old Sheikh Yassin and a harmless-looking Khaled Misha'al embracing his three children, holding his wife's hand, while surrounded by his father and crying mother.

Television viewers have never been exposed to that positive new image of Hamas, which Israel, by its own actions, yet certainly unintentionally, brought to headlines around the world.

King Hussein, the real maestro, managed to overcome so many crises. According to the Palestinian people, it is the King who can really deliver in the long-term as well as in the short-term.

Jordan was able to extricate from Israel what others failed to.

Arab leaders had earlier appealed for Sheikh Yassin's release but had always faced refusal. This second success to the King's credit is added to his former success in solving the Hebron debacle months ago.

Moreover, the statement which announced that the life of the peace process depends on the survival of a

Jordanian citizen whose life was threatened re-emphasised the special invisible tie that holds Palestinians and Jordanians to their leader. But it shows that an overreaction could have led to catastrophic results. One wrong move on either side could have demolished all hopes nurtured during the last three years.

The bedouins in Jordan have a saying "if a lunatic drops a stone in a well, it needs two hundred wise men to take the stone out."

The Misha'al-gate episode could have threatened the whole peace process. The popular call here to revoke the treaty has had resonant appeal among different strata of Palestinians and Jordanians who still ask where are the gains of the "MENA" promised to us as a justification for signing the treaty. The economic situation became worse, alienation with the Arab states became more acute, the unemployment rate doubled and the Gulf states did not honour their commitments.

But should Jordan have recalled its ambassador to Israel the way Ottawa did?

The answer, from a Jordanian perspective, is no. The main gain from the whole mess during the last two weeks was the concept of peace and coexistence. To have an objective clear thinking is in Jordan's advantage. As Jordanians we cannot afford to lose one iota of political assets especially at this juncture so close to the final status talks. A pre-Oslo-atmosphere is subservient to Netanyahu and the Likud hardliners.

Amman might be one of the main beneficiaries from a restoration of normalcy between Jordan, Gaza and Israel.

Though Jordan was very keen to defuse the tension in the region, we have to admit that the Israeli troika, were equally levelheaded especially Ariel Sharon who condemned the whole incident and strategem whether on friendly soil or otherwise.

In sum, Hamas had pocketed some gains, Israel also was spared more losses and had some gains too. Jordan, no doubt, had many gains. But the biggest winner is the concept of peace in the region which withered Misha'al-gate.

THE WEEK IN PRINT

Israel's policies, practices still not punished

REVIEWED BY
ELIA NASRALLAH

THE ARABIC dailies this week focused on the repercussions of the failed Israeli attempt to assassinate a prominent Hamas leader in Amman and the subsequent developments, as well as the new position of Hamas and domestic affairs.

Tareq Masarweh of Al Ra'i said that although Israel was the first to use a chemical weapon in the Middle East in their attempt to kill the Hamas leader, the U.S. is turning a blind eye. If the Israelis are allowed to employ chemical weapons against Jordan, which is linked to Israel by a peace treaty, why should the U.S. continue to impose an unjust embargo on Iraq accusing it of developing chemical weapons? Masarweh asked. He asked also, why the U.S. urges the nations of the world to sign a treaty banning the production and use of chemical weapons but condones Israel's atrocities committed with such weapons? If in peace time Israel employs chemical weapons against civilians, he said, one wonders what the Jewish state will do in the event of war against Jordan and other Arab states.

Al Ra'i's Meem, the pen name for a prominent columnist, criticised U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright for not including Israel and

its Mossad secret service in a list of organisations which Washington accuses of supporting terrorism. What the Mossad did in the streets of Amman recently represents an outrageous act of state terrorism committed against civilians in defiance of all international laws and in total disregard to the Jordan-Israel peace treaty, according to the writer. Meem said the U.S. secretary has voiced Washington's determination to fight terrorist organisations, considering any help extended to them as a crime punishable by law, but she failed to include the Jewish state which perpetrates and executes all forms of terrorism. He said the U.S. has been decrying any attempt on the part of any nation trying to possess chemical weapons and condemning European nations' attempts to help Arab and Islamic countries make these weapons, but at the same time it continues to condone all kinds of Israeli acts of terrorism.

Ibrahim Absi, a Al Ra'i writer, said that had the Israeli agents succeeded in assassinating Hamas leader Khaled Misha'al, the incident would have triggered a new cycle of violence in the Middle East and would have caused a real explosion. It is regrettable to see the influential world powers continually supporting the Jewish state whose policy is to terrorise civilians in other countries.

occupy other nations' lands and pursue oppression against the Palestinian people. Absi said. The behaviour of Israel, he said, clearly demonstrates that Tel Aviv has not given up its criminal plots despite all the talks by the Likud government about its desire and determination to achieve peace and security in the Middle East. He said the mere fact that Israel maintains its occupation of land belonging to three Arab states and continues its repressive measures against their inhabitants is stark evidence of its evil nature and its terrorist character.

Also at Arab Al Yawm, Rashid Hassan wrote that because of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's policies Israel has for the past one and a half years experienced the taste of defeat and disaster. The writer referred to the loss of 70 Israeli soldiers earlier this year when their helicopters crashed while they were on a mission of aggression in Lebanon, and the loss of another 13 elite troops in southern Lebanon on their way to conduct a terrorist attack against the Lebanese people. Hassan said that perhaps the most devastating blow to Israel's image in recent times was the botched Mossad attempt against the life of Khaled Misha'al, which exposed Israel's terrorist nature to the whole world. He said that these

events will certainly have negative consequences on Netanyahu and his Likud government.

Referring to the release from jail of Hamas-spiritual leader Sheikh Ahmad Yassin, Arab Al Yawm's Nicola Nasser said the discharge was not motivated by humanitarian reasons but because the Israelis wanted to secure the release of their Mossad agents in Amman in return. He said Sheikh Yassin's release, in fact, saved the Israelis from a heavy political and security burden and the subsequent release of the two Israeli terrorists who attempted to kill Khaled Misha'al in Amman was in reality a reward to Israel for its terrorist attempt. Demands for the release of Sheikh Yassin were legitimate because he was imprisoned for no sin and the demands were made by the oppressed people of Palestine who are seeking freedom and an end to occupation, the writer said. He said the rejoicing over the Sheikh's release and Misha'al's escape from death should not prompt the Arab people to ignore or forget the Mossad's terrorist and criminal acts.

Al Ra'i's Mahmoud Rimawi said that Sheikh Yassin has presented very reasonable demands, pledging to stop attacks on the Israelis in return for a complete end to the occupation. The offer, said the writer,

reflects that Hamas does not rule out the substitution of armed struggle for political negotiations to ensure the return of the usurped territories. Sheikh Yassin's ideas might displease the hardliners within the Hamas movement who, said the writer, continue to hold on to the idea of armed struggle regardless. But he said Sheikh Yassin's ideas appear much more realistic and his political stand more practicable, reflecting a genuine desire to abandon violence in exchange for freedom.

Echoing the same view, Oreib Rintawi of Al Dustour said Sheikh Yassin's views are realistic and objective because he has expressed Hamas's readiness to coexist with the Jews in Palestine and to cooperate with the Palestine National Authority to achieve real peace. The writer said that the Sheikh's ideas are tantamount to recognising the Oslo accords which also aimed at regaining Arab control over Palestinian lands including Arab Jerusalem. Hamas, which has proved its stand and established itself as a main player in the Middle East arena, ought to take into consideration Sheikh

Yassin's views, which, the writer said, seem to pave the ground for, involving the resistance movement in contacts with Israel. He said Sheikh Yassin's views could help avert further arrests of Hamas elements by the Palestine National Authority and help cement national unity among the Palestinians.

An Arab Al Yawm writer criticised the government's tendency to borrow more money from other nations and organisations saying that the borrowing will only increase the national debt. It is regrettable to see the Cabinet approve such loans which the government describes as "soft" and repayable over many years as the loans are only bound to increase the already heavy burden on Jordan. The writer said the country bears the heaviest debt of the Middle East countries in per capita terms, adding that the debts continue to obstruct real development and place further burdens on the Jordanian people. He said the government should stop all borrowing, reduce its public expenditure and remove all forms of extravagance.

LETTERS

A 'great surprise'

To the Editor:

UPON THE invitation of Minister of Tourism and Antiquities Akel Biltaji we visited Jordan during September. The American Society of Travel Agents (ASTA) is the largest travel association in the world and has members in 177 countries, Jordan included. Mr. Biltaji contacted our association in early September at Glasgow, Scotland, at the annual conclave of travel sellers and buyers from all over the world. He did an excellent job there as he talked to thousands of travel agents.

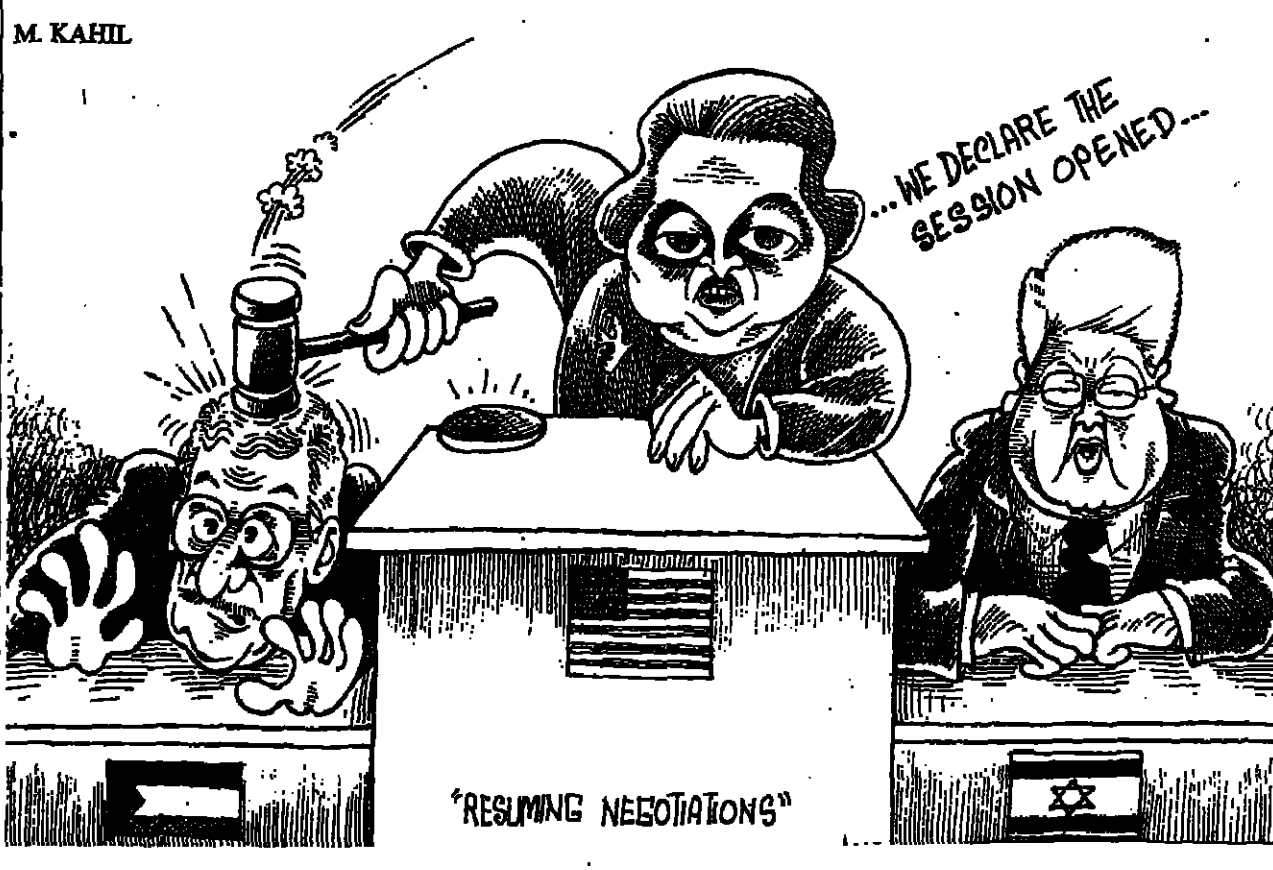
From our visit we can say without bias that Jordan is a great surprise: not only a friendly people, but, antiquities! The Jordanian people have a nation of which they can be most proud! The country's highway system is only excelled by its heritage and culture. Its hotels are excellent! Petra and Jerash have few equals in the world. And to be able to go to the Dead Sea in such a short-time gave the trip added flavour. I am sure that I do not have to tell the Jordanians of the wonders of their tourist areas. I can tell them, however, that it is important to get this message out to the world.

In 1998, we will hold the World Congress of the ASTA from October 14-19 in Los Angeles, California. We are inviting His Majesty King Hussein to be a speaker, if his schedule allows, of course. It is through this effort that Jordan will be further sold to the world as the country to visit.

My thanks go out to Minister Biltaji, Marwan Khoury, Executive Director of the Jordan Tourism Board and his USA representative, Malia Asfour, and the many others in Jordan who facilitated my trip. Jordan is second to none in world tourism! Salam!

Mike Spinelli
President and Chief Executive Officer

Richard Knott
Executive Vice President
American Society of Travel Agents (ASTA)
Washington, DC



Features
The great co
Excavations. rea

The most recent plan of the Umayyad Mosque (1), the circular cistern (2), the mosque (5), the self-contained archaeological museum (9) in the private residence

The great congregational mosque of Umayyad Amman has been identified

Excavations, restoration reveal new dimensions of Umayyad Complex on Amman Citadel

By Rami G. Khouri
Special to the Jordan Times

AFTER TWO years of excavation, analysis and restoration of the Umayyad palace complex on the Citadel of Amman, important new information has been obtained about the synthesis between eastern and western traditions that give rise to the beauty of early Islamic art and architecture. The work has revealed most of the elements of the original 8th century AD complex, which may also explain how the Umayyad dynasty used architecture to project a sense of power as it took over from the Byzantine and Sassanid empires in this region.

Much of the citadel's Umayyad complex was first excavated and published in the 1970s by Spanish scholar Antonio Almagro (British, Jordanian and American teams have also excavated and restored other parts of the Citadel in the ensuing years). The current project is being undertaken by a Spanish-Jordanian team directed by Spanish architect Ignacio Arce, with Jordanian architect Manal Rimawi and archaeologist Ghassan Ramahi representing the Department of Antiquities.

Arce believes that this palatine complex in Amman gives us important clues for a better understanding of early Islamic art and architecture in Andalusia in Spain, where Abd er-Rahman founded the independent Umayyad emirate of Cordova. There are striking parallels, for example, between the Amman Citadel complex and Alhambra Palace in Granada, in that both comprise a fine residential palace in the corner of a hilltop administrative complex surrounded by a city.

"The excavations we have undertaken clarify how the Umayyads started building monumentally to show power in an urban context," Arce told the Jordan Times in a recent interview here. "The Umayyads had just defeated the Byzantine and the Sassanid powers and needed an image and protocol of power that could be most easily manifested in their buildings."

The complex was built in the first third of the 8th century along the north-west

corner of the citadel summit. It comprises three main parts, which are (from south to north): a public area including a great entrance hall with an adjacent bath, an open water cistern, and a public plaza; nine residential courtyard complexes arranged around access streets; and the main residential building of the official or prince who lived here, complete with an audience hall, a throne room, and four adjacent residential buildings for his staff.

The most recent research carried out by Arce and his Jordanian colleagues has led to the discovery in front of the audience hall of a great square defined to the east and west by two rows of porticoed shops (the sug) and to the south by a wide flight of steps leading up to the great mosque. The mosque area is now being excavated by Arce and Jordanian archaeologists Hanadi Taher and Bassim Abbadi.

The birth of Umayyad art

An important dimension of the excavation is what it reveals about how the Umayyad civilisation borrowed heavily from these two other regional cultural powers before it blended various elements into the distinct style of early Islamic art. The complex synthesis of different traditions is visible in several different aspects of the excavated structures and the cultural remains, which are best understood in the context of the site's chronological history.

The summit of the Citadel had been extensively built upon and inhabited by people during the several thousand years before the Umayyad era, notably in the Bronze, Iron, Roman and Byzantine periods (most of the massive external walls of the citadel are from the Roman period, with some medieval Islamic rebuilding and fortification). The excavations suggest that the Umayyads probably found the area largely in rubble when they took control of it in the third decade of the 7th century AD; its state may have reflected Sassanid (Persian) destructions of the Byzantine city that had flourished there for hundreds of years (and that left

at least one church on the Citadel, along with many others throughout Amman).

The entrance or audience hall (the main, roofed standing structure with the fine carved stone decorations inside) was built over the remains of a Byzantine structure, probably a praetorium, and may have served to control access from the public urban areas to the private palatine complex. The Umayyads used the first course of the ruined building as the foundations for a new structure with a cross-shaped plan, which they inherited from the Byzantines.

The rich geometric carvings inside the audience hall, deep in the Sassanid tradition, and the high, domed roof were probably designed to impress visitors, and prepare them for their meeting with the ruler or prince, which may have taken place here or in the ruler's residential palace at the very north end of the complex. The audience hall, at the south-east side of the palatine complex, provided the only link between the Umayyad complex and the rest of the city on the Citadel and in the valleys below it. In many ways it mirrors the "door of justice" that was common throughout Umayyad Spanish complexes; this was an area where justice was done by the ruler, but usually without visitors entering the complex beyond this entrance hall.

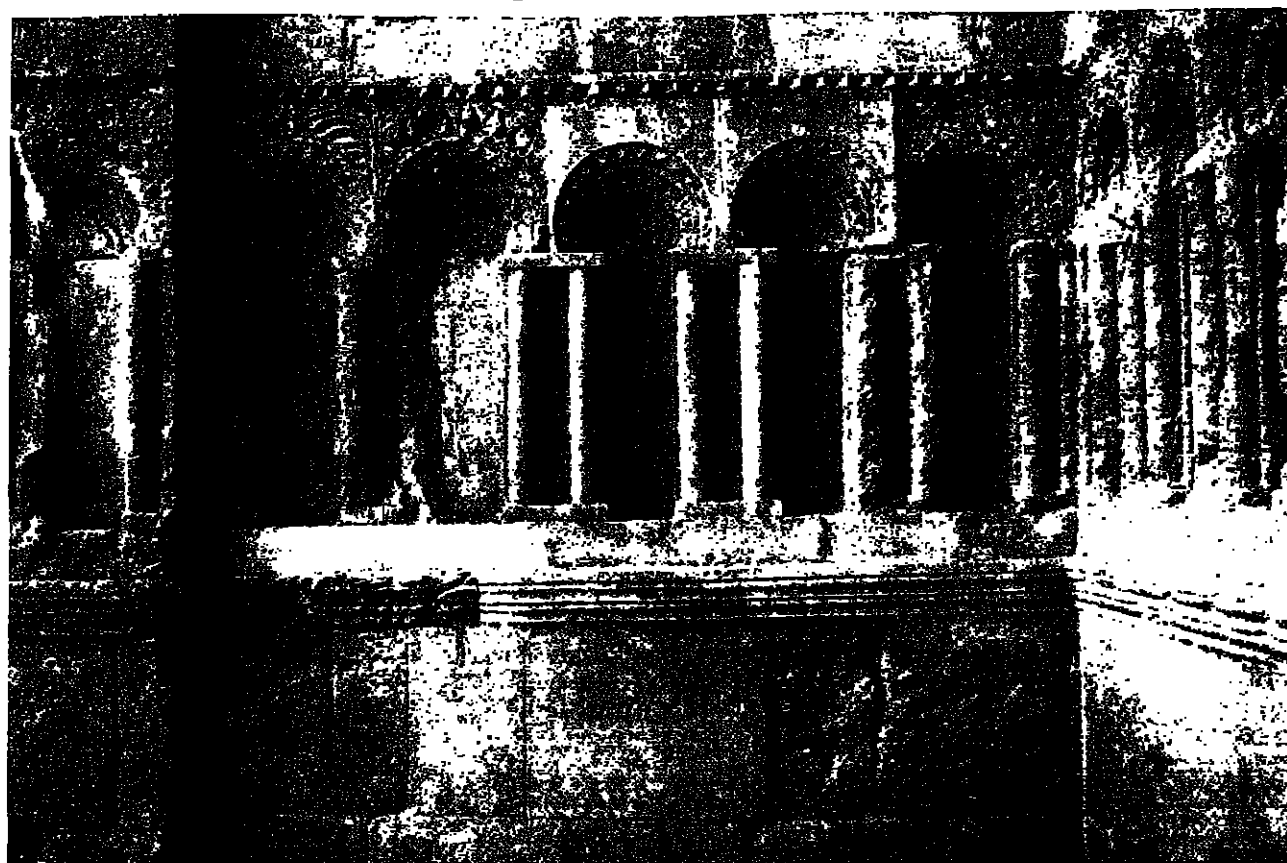
The new dome of the audience hall will be ready for installation later this month, which will make the building available for use for musical performances and other public events. The style of the dome and the windows along the top of the building have been carefully reconstructed from the available evidence, as have the stone blocks inside the building.

Immediately east of the audience hall is the bath, whose structure and functions were very much in keeping with Roman and Byzantine period baths. The bath is being restored with bricks that match the original construction materials and style, following the evidence of the original bricks and mosaics that remains in situ. The bath had the standard entrance, cold, warm and hot rooms, most of whose remains can still be

seen. The bath's location was partly dictated by its proximity to the large, circular reservoir that could hold 1368 cubic metres of water. The reservoir has also been restored.

South of the audience hall — immediately outside the palatine city — was an open "sug" area with rows of shops on the east and west sides (the small, Mamluke-era mosque near the baths was actually made by reconfiguring some of these shops). At the south end of the plaza the excavators uncovered a long staircase that leads up to the Umayyad era town's large congregational mosque. Immediately south-east of the plaza is the route of a former Roman-Byzantine road which once led to the temenos area of the Roman temple; the other (southern) end of the road, at a later date, led on a straight line to the Byzantine church that still stands on the Citadel. In the Umayyad era, a new entrance was built to connect the street to the shops and plaza that occupied the important public space between the mosque and the royal complex.

Immediately north of the audience hall is an open square giving onto a colonnaded patio, which leads



Aerial view of the Citadel showing the recent excavations. The residential palace is at far left of the Citadel summit; to its right are the excavated office complexes, followed by the audience hall and circular cistern visible in the centre of the photo (Photo courtesy of the Spanish Archaeological Mission)

plex of the ruler (perhaps a prince or governor, either a local power or the caliph from Damascus). The entrance leads into a colonnaded patio, which leads

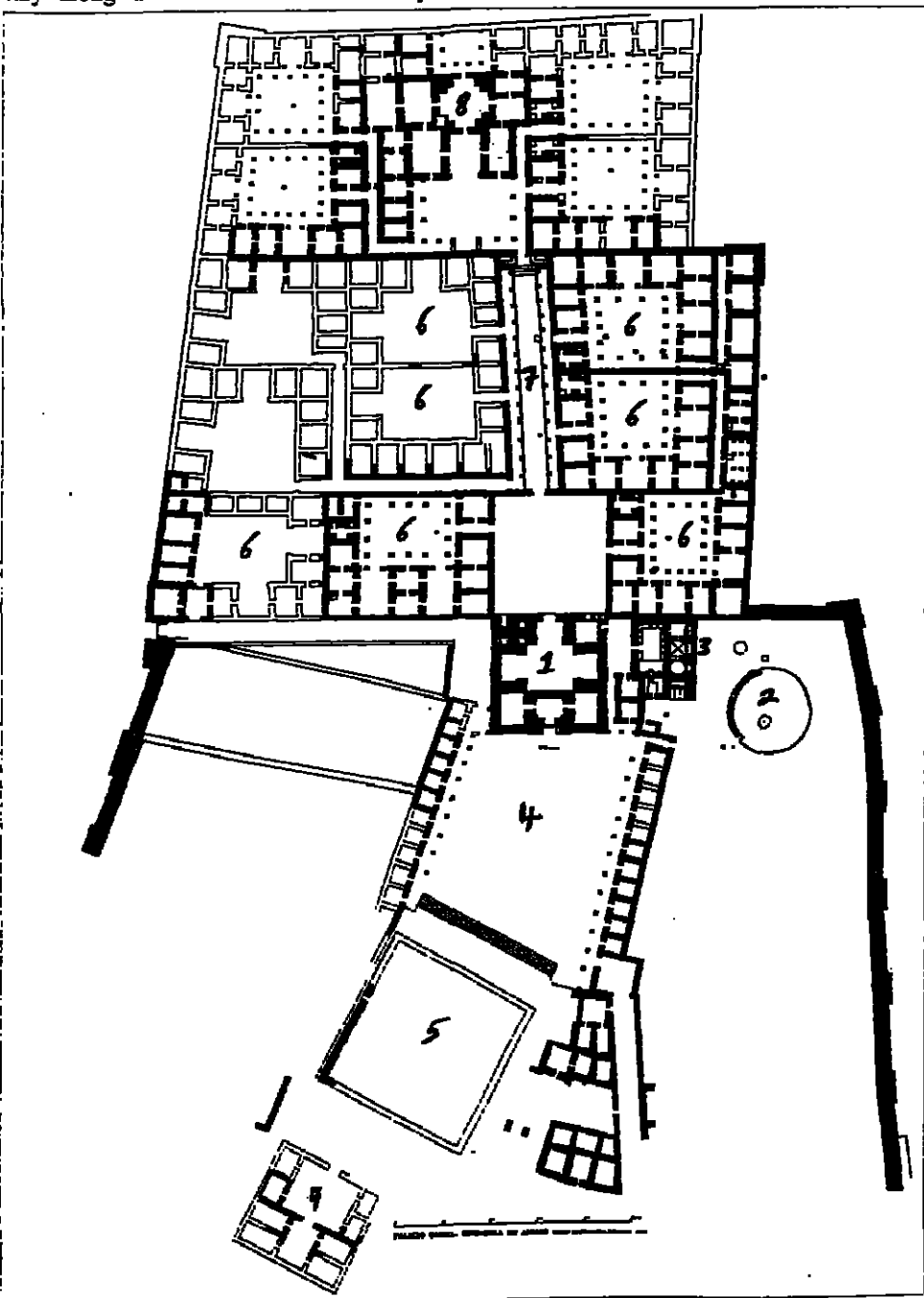
limited Byzantine and Sassanid money at first) and in the architecture. The Umayyads continued the Byzantine traditions of using ashlar building

voir. It is not known for how long during the Ayyubid-Mamluke period the building was used. The phases of the architecture are very obvious within the

ence hall and the bath. The original plaster inside the pool is also visible, as are the inlet and outlet channels and remains of the column in the middle that was part



Aerial view of the square Umayyad audience hall (left), the circular water cistern (top-left corner), the shops-lined plaza in front of the audience hall (centre), and the stairs (right) leading up to the mosque area (Photo courtesy of the Spanish Archaeological Mission)



The most recent plan of the Umayyad complex on the Citadel: showing the audience hall (1), the circular cistern (2), the baths (3), the plaza flanked by rows of shops (4), the mosque (5), the self-contained residential complexes (6), the paved road (7), the throne room within the private residential/office complex of the ruler (8), and the archaeological museum (9) (Illustration courtesy of the Spanish Archaeological Mission)

smaller side street to the west. The street paving originates from the Roman period, but the alignment of the street was changed slightly during the Umayyad era. The streets and plaza are surrounded by nine residential complexes. (The thick exterior wall of these complexes was probably once the outer wall or a Roman enclosure that included a temple). This "true urban complex" of streets, open plazas, and residential complexes was probably inhabited by people and officials associated with the royal complex. The nine complexes (plus four others linked to the royal residence) are all self-contained, perhaps reflecting tribal divisions in the town, but also perhaps simply reflecting a common Mediterranean arrangement of family living quarters surrounding a central courtyard.

The unit of rooms at the south-west end of the complex is not accessible from the streets, but rather only from the outside of the entire complex. This suggests its use as a guard or control unit. Arce suggests. The adjacent unit, between it and the open plaza north of the audience hall, is also noteworthy because of its fine construction and its location near the audience/entrance hall. Inside it were a central cloister court surrounded by rooms, a triple arcade to two rooms along the south wall, a staircase leading to the terrace, a latrine, and water cisterns.

The northern edge of the complex, at the far end of the main street, is the private home and office complex of the ruler (perhaps a prince or governor, either a local power or the caliph from Damascus). The entrance leads into a colonnaded patio, which leads

into a smaller, barrel-vaulted iwan (an anteroom to the throne room, or an audience hall), and then finally into the cross-shaped and domed throne room. This royal complex was surrounded by rooms which in turn were flanked by four more residential complexes like the nine complexes to the south.

The throne room is perfectly Sassanian in shape, and protocol may have followed the Sassanian tradition of the ruler being spoken to from behind a curtain, but never seen by visitors. The very narrow space between the iwan and the throne room probably accommodated a curtain and thus served this purpose. In the floor are remains of some coloured, geometric mosaics.

The very thick south wall of the residential quarters and throne room area was part of the original Roman era temenos (the holy precinct around a temple). Its original conche niches can still be seen a few metres above ground level. It had two doors originally; one was blocked in the Umayyad era, and the other remained in use as the door into the private quarters of the ruler. The Umayyads also reused some large Roman era stones for the north-south walls of the royal complex. Some of the Roman period temenos wall lines can still be traced in the ground east of the throne room, including some large stones carved at 90-degree angles (the corners of the temenos wall).

The Umayyad synthesis of earlier regional traditions is seen in the coins (which

blocks, lime mortar and mosaics, but also used Sassanid traditions such as open iwans, gypsum, stone decoration, and squinches (shell-shaped elements to support a dome).

The earthquake of 748/49 probably destroyed most of the building, and the area continued in use after that during the Abbasid era and beyond, but with elaborate public buildings and residences replaced by simpler private shelters.

The audience hall was reused as a castle during the Ayyubid-Mamluke period, when a small mosque was built next to it and an internal stairwell was transformed into a water reservoir.

excavations. Arce notes, especially where the Umayyad inhabitants built on existing foundations but modified them slightly to suit their taste or functional needs. Most of the structures outside the complex date from the Byzantine period, but were re-used in the Umayyad and later periods.

The water system from the Umayyad era has been largely restored and is functioning, carrying runoff rain water from the audience hall area, via clay pipes and stone channels, to the circular reservoir. Some of the original clay pipes can be seen in the small, open courtyard between the audi-

ence hall and the bath. The original plaster inside the pool is also visible, as are the inlet and outlet channels and remains of the column in the middle that was part of the water gauge.

The restoration work has been undertaken with utmost attention to following the original designs, Arce said, and the new additions have been made to stand out somewhat from the original structures, so that visitors can differentiate new from old.

The work at the Umayyad complex on the Citadel of Amman has been undertaken jointly by the Department of Antiquities of Jordan and Spanish architects, with funding from the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation, the Department of Antiquities, and the Ministry of Tourism.

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Agreement to bolster agricultural cooperation between Jordan, Palestine

AMMAN (Petra) — Agriculture Minister Mijhem Khreisha and his Palestinian counterpart Abdul Jawad Thursday signed an agreement to develop the agricultural agenda concluded earlier between both sides into a comprehensive agricultural agreement.

In a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, following a meeting of the Jordanian and Palestinian officials, Mr. Khreisha said the ministry will provide every possible support for the Palestinian people to ease their suffering and to help them overcome any difficulties and obstacles facing the agricultural sector.

Jordan's central role in the region and its continuous efforts to achieve complementarity among Arab countries. Stressing the importance of Thursday's meetings, Mr. Abdul Jawad said they contribute to developing bilateral agricultural cooperation.

The Palestinian delegation, which includes the directors of chambers of commerce and industry in Palestine, Friday visited the Jordanian Exports Promotion and Trade Centres Corporation, where they met with its Acting Director General Farouq Al Hadidi who briefed them on the corporation's objectives and its promotional policy.

He also talked about the role of the corporation in



Minister Khreisha signing the agreement Thursday

training Jordanian cadres to upgrade the standard of Jordanian industry. The corpo-

ration has opened a trade centre in Gaza and a coordination office in Ramallah to

promote and increase the volume of commercial exchange.

EU states reject 12m jobs target

LUXEMBOURG (AFP) — European Union (EU) governments have rejected proposals to target the creation of 12 million jobs in five years and cut the bloc's jobless rate from 10.7 to seven per cent.

Employment and Social Affairs ministers from the 15 EU states have expressed concern that the adoption of headline targets would raise false expectations that could lead to a popular backlash if the ambitious objectives are not met.

The ministers did, however, give broad backing to a range of measures outlined by the European Commission last week for presentation to EU leaders at a Nov. 21 summit on employment.

The package calls for every unemployed adult to be offered a job or training place within 12 months of becoming jobless and for an overhaul of social security systems to encourage people currently dependent on benefits to take up work.

EU governments are also urged to cut the high payroll taxes that make it prohibitively expensive for firms to expand their workforces and stifle entrepreneurship and to boost spending on research from 1.9 to 2.5 per cent of GDP.

Iran registers \$7.5 billion in trade surplus

TEHRAN (AFP) — Iran had a trade surplus of around \$7.5 billion for the 12 months ending March 1996, thanks to higher revenues from crude oil exports, the central bank has said.

The figures, published in

the government newspaper Iran, also put Iran's foreign debt at \$16.8 billion along with \$15.8 billion in "financial commitments" — goods and services purchased but not yet received.

Crude sales accounted for

much of the \$22.5 billion of goods exported last year, while imports stood at \$15 billion, the central bank said.

It did not give a figure for the oil revenue. Other exports did not exceed \$3 billion, amid a crisis in the non-oil

exports caused mainly by strict government regulations. Iran is the largest exporter of crude in the Middle East after Saudi Arabia with an average sale of 2.5 million barrels a day.

The bank also said that the

country's foreign debt had dropped to \$16.8 billion last March from \$22 billion a year before.

About \$12.3 billion of the total debt is long and medium-term and the rest short-term, it added.

Stewart Eisenstat, Under Secretary of State for Economic Affairs, U.S. State Department, and Accompanying Delegation Visit Al Hassan Industrial Estate and Century Investment Group's Factories

MR. EISENSTAT accompanied by the U.S. Ambassador to Jordan and the USTR delegation were received at Century Wear facility during their visit on Wednesday to Al Hassan Industrial Estate. This visit comes amidst the U.S. State Department's efforts to investigate the possibility of declaring the Industrial Estate as a Qualified Industrial Zone (QIZ). This opportunity, once granted, will help attract foreign investment and contribute to the promotion of social and economic development in the Kingdom. CIG's Board of Directors, under the Chairmanship of Mr. Omar Salah, and its member representatives from the Jordanian Social Security, the Housing Bank, the Arab Banking Corporation, the National Bank, the Jordan University Investment Fund, the Yarmouk University Investment Fund, Near East Investment, Arab Investment Company, and individual prominent Jordanian businessmen, along with CIG's management team and representatives of its foreign



Omar Salah

partners, hosted a luncheon for His Excellency and the accompanying delegation during which Mr. Salah presented CIG's operations and its various industrial facilities.

In his speech, Mr. Salah pointed out CIG's role in creating 1,000 job opportunities since it was first established in July, 1995, and further stated that the number of jobs will quadruple by the turn of the century. Mr. Salah also provided a brief description about CIG's operational and anticipated projects, all of which are joint ventures with foreign

multinational companies capitalising on the foreign partners' technical know-how and access to international marketing channels, as well as, CIG's management capabilities and Jordan's cost-effective quality conscious labour force. CIG's portfolio of projects includes:

1. Century Wear-Underwear (men and women underwear department): a joint venture with Sara Lee, is the largest garment manufacturing facility in Jordan. The plant employs more than 765 Jordanian workers, and produces world-class underwear for a variety of brand names such as Banana Republic, Victoria's Secret, Polo/Ralph Lauren, J-Crew, and J.C. Penny.

2. Century Canning Industries: in partnership with Century Dutch Can Making Co., has completed an FDA approved food grade can manufacturing facility. This plant is the largest of its kind in Jordan, employs 60 workers, and produces square, rectangular and round food cans, in addition to crown cork caps for Pepsi Cola bot-

ties.

3. Century Gold Industries: in partnership with Holland Gold, a world-class jewelry manufacturer. The operation includes stamping, casting, soldering and polishing of gold jewelry. The factory employs 65 workers and technicians, and is the only one of its kind in Jordan.

4. Century Alkaline Batteries Factory: which is currently under construction and is in partnership with the American Company Nevron. This facility will employ 100 workers, and shall be the first facility in the entire Arab World to produce alkaline batteries.

5. Century Electronics: in partnership with the international giant Motorola for manufacturing of advanced electronic components. This project will provide about 250 employment opportunities initially, and is anticipated that it will eventually employ many more at later stages.

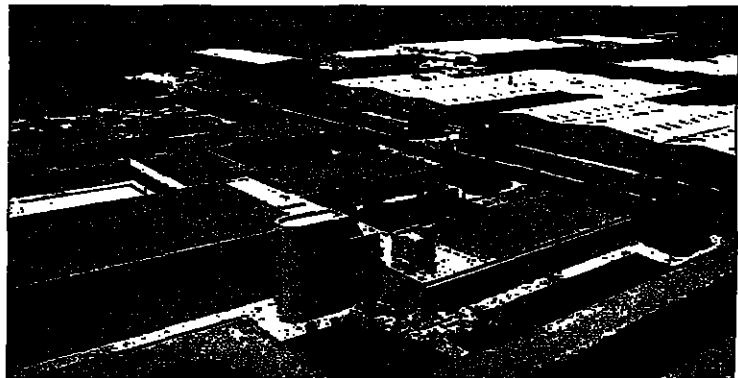
6. Century Medical Textiles: in cooperation with Standard Textile, an American company headquartered in Cincinnati, Ohio, USA. This facility will generate 250 employment opportunities.

7. Century Plastics Indus-

trally employ many more at later stages.

8. Century Men's Suits: in cooperation with Daniel Hechter Company of the United States to produce trousers and tailored men's suits. This factory will generate 600 employment opportunities.

9. Computer Operation Centre in partnership with Sara Lee: Sara Lee has decided to move its corporate



computer programming operation to Jordan. The service, which will entail textile manufacturing operations automation, will be sold to Delta in the first phase and will later be offered to other textile manufacturers. This project will employ 50 Jordanian programmers.

THE Daily Crossword

ACROSS

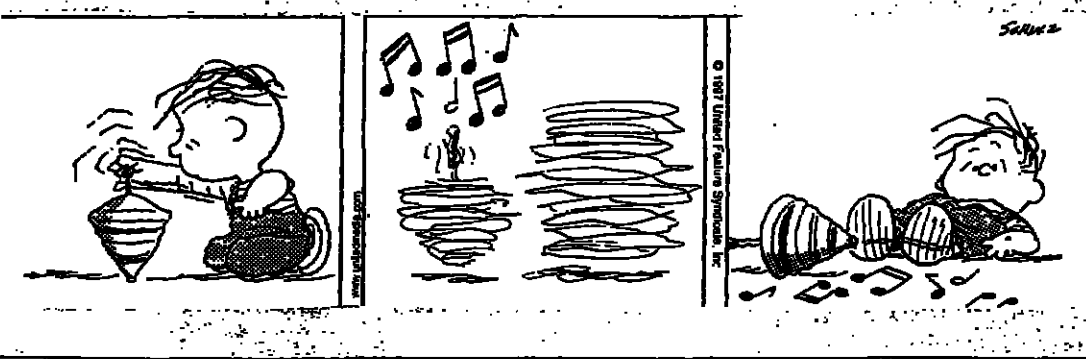
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- Falana or Montez
- Playing field
- Top-notch
- Culture medium
- Confederate general
- Nonsense
- Taylor or Pousseant
- Time periods
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- Len of old films
- Bureau
- Residence
- Commonplace
- Toten pole
- Middle East prince
- Molar and bicuspid
- Wilder or Kelly
- Time of day, to poets
- One of the bases
- Egg on
- "Fright's"
- Scott Hamilton, e.g.
- Uncivil
- Copycat
- Porch
- Kitchen appliances
- Leaders in art
- Dies
- Actor Sean
- Like some walls
- Misbehavin'
- Bosch
- Distasteful
- Court dividers

by Vivian O. Collins

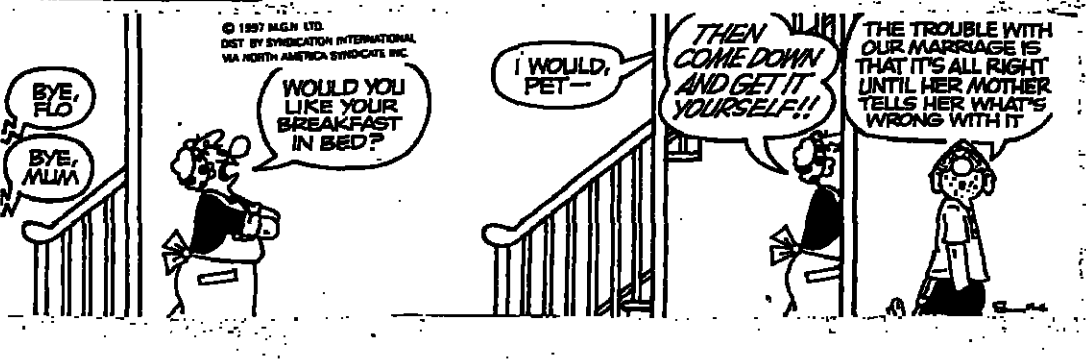
DOWN

- Saint of Norway
- Trademark
- Israeli airline
- Horiculturalist
- Actress Nanette
- Cookies
- Authentic
- African antelope
- Sharpness of hearing
- Certain beepers
- Kind of horse
- Regarding
- Persian kin
- Rub out
- Previous to
- Travis of music
- Alcott character
- Pledging sound
- Painter Winslow
- acid
- Woman's wear
- Spind, as energy
- Scope
- Guide
- Short and sweet
- Bound
- Angelic protector
- Complete ingredient
- Kind of knot
- Fast
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- Certain European
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- Grandmother
- Soft cheese
- Border lake
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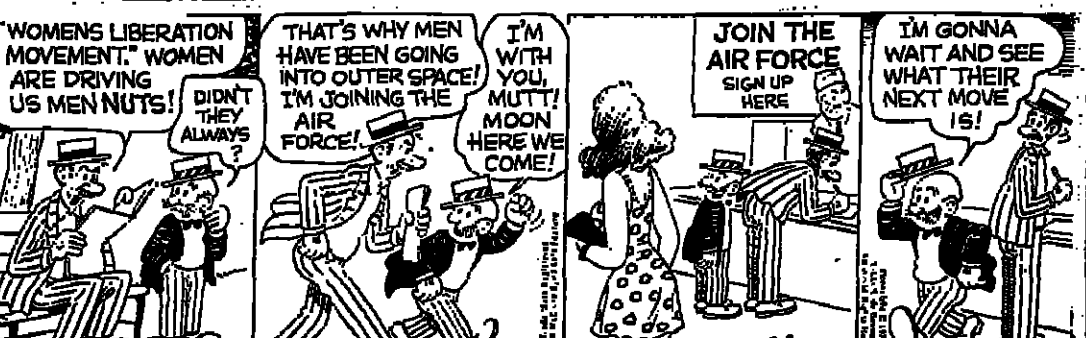
Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11

By Linda C. Black, Tribune Media Services, Inc.

ARIES:

(March 21 to April 19) It's a marvelous day for playing friends and meeting new people. If you haven't been several parties yet, call around. You were only missed by you forgot to leave the answering machine on. Relax today, because you'll soon be extremely busy at work.

TAURUS:

(April 20 to May 20) You thought you'd relax and have a Saturday? Well, guess again. An older person, possibly a parent, has a few projects in mind for you. The good news is you can manage both, congratulations. Don't start new projects until the afternoon, however. They'll go haywire.

GEMINI:

(May 21 to June 21) In the morning, you have everything your way, so start new projects then. Everything from affairs to trips across the country will go very well right now. You can manage both, congratulations. Don't start new projects in the afternoon, however. They'll go haywire.

MOON CHILDREN:

(June 22 to July 21) It's a decent day to go shopping, but concentrate on purchases for the house. If you did more looking than buying, yesterday, this is a good time to follow through. Now that you know what's out there, it will be easier to make a decision. Think it over carefully.

LEO:

(July 22 to August 21) You shouldn't start new projects. Read a book. Think of ways you can make more money. Actually, that check you've been waiting for may finally show up in the mail. Travel, should go well, if you're with friends you've known a long-time. Go back to a familiar place.

VIRGO:

(August 22 to September 22) You'll find plenty of things to keep you busy this morning. Some are even lucrative. Are you having a garage sale, or what? Meanwhile, the experience you've gained recently at work has improved your self-confidence. You're almost ready for a bigger challenge.

LIBRA:

(September 23 to October 22) Usually, you fit from one topic to another with lightning-fast speed. Consequently, you never really get to know anything very well. Today you'll be more patient and decisive. That could do wonders for your romantic relationship, as well as in your scholastic pursuits.

SCORPIO:

(October 23 to November 21) Everybody's in a great mood, so relax and join the festivities. You really should be holding the party at your house. There's a fascinating ambience there. It's a combination of intellectualism and creativity, plus a sense of spiritual renewal. Everybody will have a great time.

SAGITTARIUS:

(November 22 to December 21) Your best time, and everyone else's, will be this morning. That's when you can take bold action and reasonably expect a positive outcome. Later in the day, that won't necessarily be true. The action you take then could be wasted. So, knock off early.

CAPRICORN:

(December 22 to January 20) Go shopping this morning or visit friends. Perhaps you can do both in the same excursion. Do you have any friends who live near a great store? Or maybe you all could go to where the best shopping is, like to the heart of the city. Don't waste money on something you don't need.

AQUARIUS:

(January 21 to February 19) Opportunities for adventure and happy surprises are plentiful. Don't let your silly inhibitions get in the way. Let a person you love drag you out of familiar terrain and into the area where you're clueless. That's where true excitement really lies.

PISCES:

(February 20 to March 20) Help friends who are too analytical learn to relax. Give them the benefit of your wisdom. Discuss your own hopes and dreams with your sweetheart later. Have you been thinking about getting married? This afternoon would be a good time to go looking for a ring.

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THE BETTER HALF. By Glasbergen



"Your perfume is harassing my nose."

JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

WROCE

ISTUE

DILBOE

REWESK

Answer: BLOOD FOLIO NEEDLE QUENCH

Yesterday's Jumble: BLOOD FOLIO NEEDLE QUENCH

Answer: What the secretary wanted the office Romeo to do - HOLD THE LINE

Daily Beat

A review of news from the Arabic

IDB board of directors recommends to general assembly doubling bank's capital to JD24m

THE BOARD of directors of the Industrial Development Bank (IDB) has decided to double the bank's capital from JD12 million to JD24 million in order to provide the needed liquidity for the bank's operations and to continue supporting the industrial and tourism sector.

According to IDB General Manager Rajab Al Saad, the decision to double the capital was necessitated by the growth in the number and volume of loans during the recent years and in expectation of higher demand on financing from the bank.

The increase in capital, Mr. Saad explained, will be covered by granting shareholders a free half a share bonus for each share they hold for a total amount of JD6 million.

The European Investment Bank will be allocated an equity equivalent to five million European Currency Units and the priority to cover the remaining amount will be given to present shareholders. If the shareholders did not cover the full amount, other investors will be asked to cover the difference.

The bank's general assembly will hold an extraordinary meeting on Nov. 6 to approve the increase in capital. In this

regard, Mr. Saad praised the role of the European Investment Bank in supporting the IDB and noted that the Europeans have been supporting the bank for more than 20 years (Al Ra'i).

Arab Bank willing to pay back funds left by depositors before 1948

THE ARAB Bank is still maintaining all the records of operations in Palestine including those which took place before 1948 and, according to Chairman Abdul Majed Shoman, the bank is ready to return the balances of accounts which depositors left in Palestinian branches before this date.

Stressing that nothing was lost, Mr. Shoman said: "All records at Arab Bank branches, which were operating before 1948 are being kept." He indicated that Palestinians who stayed in their towns and villages after the creation of Israel have contacted the Arab Bank branches in the Palestinian territories and recovered their entitlements.

The chairman emphasised that funds or deposits not claimed by clients will remain for their heirs who can demand payment upon proper identification. The bank considers every Palestinian "gineh" as one Jordanian dinar (Al Aswaq).

REUTERS

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The Business of Information

Major Currencies & Cross Rates Prices as at 10/10/97 16:51

Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	YEN	FRF	ITL
US Dollar	1.7485	0.6188	1.4560	118.78	1.3785	1725.43	1.9702
DE Mark	0.5719	-	0.8324	68.88	0.7884	985.98	1.1263
GB Sterling	1.6214	2.8348	-	2.3612	194.21	2.2351	3.1934
CH Franc	0.8968	120.02	0.4233	-	82.23	0.0464	1184.44
JP Yen	0.0083	1.4591	0.5144	1.2192	-	1.1808	14.39
CA Dollar	0.7254	1.2680	0.4471	1.0585	1.15	-	1247.48
IT Lira	0.0006	1.0137	0.3574	0.0844	1442.38	0.7994	-
NL Guilder	0.5078	88.74	0.3128	73.83	80.77	0.6988	874.82
FR Franc	0.1702	0.2974	0.1048	24.7644	20.35	0.2345	33.50

Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	YEN	FRF	ITL
US Dollar	0.7080	3.7505	0.3770	3.5402	0.3038	3.6728	1536.00
Jordan Dinar	1.4124	-	5.2973	0.5325	3.1415	0.4280	2169.49
Saudi Riyal	0.2666	0.1888	-	0.1005	0.97	0.0810	0.98
Bahrain Dinar	2.65	1.8780	9.9488	-	9.88	0.8057	9.74
Qatar Dinar	0.2747	0.1945	1.0303	-	0.0834	1.01	421.85
Kuwait Dinar	3.2922	2.3908	12.9473	1.2411	11.98	-	12.09
Emirate Dinar	0.2723	0.1928	1.0212	0.1026	0.9911	0.0827	-
Lebanese 1000	0.85	0.4609	2.4417	0.2454	2.3698	0.1978	2.3911
Egyptian	0.2942	0.2083	1.1034	0.1109	1.0710	0.0884	1.0806

Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	YEN	FRF	ITL
SA Riyal	0.2666	0.1888	0.1005	0.97	0.0810	0.98	31.9428
AE Dirham	0.2723	0.4708	0.16791	0.39667	32.6178	-	-
KW Dinar	3.2922	5.7505	2.30348	4.79616	394.477	-	-
BH Dinar	0.3770	4.64037	1.65586	3.66399	377.763	-	-
CY Pound	1.924	3.3646	1.1868	2.8019	230.495	-	-

Currency	Buy	Sell
US Dollar	0.708	0.710
GB Sterling	1.1472	1.1528
DE Mark	0.4043	0.4063
CH Franc	0.4898	0.4922
FR Franc	0.1203	0.1209
JP Yen	0.5835	0.5864
NL Guilder	0.3589	0.3607
IT Lira	0.4125	0.4146

Source	Index	Value	% Chg	Source	Index	Value	% Chg
New York	DOW JONES	8003.71	-57.71	New York	S&P 500	863.94	-6.58
New York	FT-SE 100	5185.1	-29.7	London	NIKKEI 225	17378.92	-242.28
Tokyo	CAC 40	2925.45	-35.2	Paris	DAX	4188.52	-54.48
Frankfurt							

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET

HOUSING BANK CENTER - AMMAN - JORDAN
TELEPHONE: 607171 / 607179
ORGANIZED MARKET TRADING ACTIVITY FOR THE PERIOD (04/10/1997 - 08/10/1997)
WEEKLY REPORT

DURING THE LAST 3 WEEKS	COMPANY NAME	P/E	DIV	NO. OF CONTRACTS	NO. OF SHARES EXECUTED	VALUE TRADED JD	OPENING PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSING PRICE	CHANGE	AVERAGE TURN
341.000	330.000 ARAB BANK	15.4	1.19	20	1240	416580	338.00	338.00	335.00	335.50	-2.50	335.952
2.100	1.920 JOR. NATIONAL BK.	-	0.00	68	30105	58256	1.93	1.94	1.93	1.94	+0.01	1.935
5.000	5.000 CAIRO AMMAN BANK	10.1	3.06	2	1050	5160	5.00	4.95	4.90	4.90	-0.10	4.914
3.020	2.350 BANK OF JORDAN	6.3	0.00	7	14470	43343	2.95	3.00	2.93	3.00	+0.05	2.995
1.000	910 MID-EAST INV. BK.	72.9	0.00	63	53750	57851	0.98	1.11	0.97	1.11	+0.13	1.076
2.540	2.250 INDUSTRIAL DEV. BK.	10.1	6.20	111	90400	229622	2.44	2.46	2.42	2.55	+0.11	2.540
5.000	4.900 THE HOUSING BK.	14.7	3.94	31	105617	525751	4.92	4.98	4.92	4.93	+0.01	4.978
3.200	3.100 JOR. KUNAFI BANK	13.2	0.00	11	7750	24604	3.20	3.18	3.15	3.15	-0.05	3.175
0.870	740 JOR. GULF BANK	4.7	8.86	26	28500	23794	0.85	0.87	0.80	0.86	-0.06	0.859
3.600	3.600 ARAB JOR. INV. BK.	17.3	0.00	1	100	360	3.60	3.60	3.60	3.60	-	3.600
3.880	3.620 JOR. ISLAMIC BANK	14.9	3.27	87	30861	141294	3.71	3.73	3.67	3.67	-0.04	3.712
1.320	1.200 UNION BK. SAV. INV.	172.5	0.00	29	11900	14561	1.20	1.26	1.20	1.23	+0.03	1.224
3.620	3.400 JOR. INV. FIV. BANK	23.0	0.00	7	3178	11268	3.55	3.58	3.50	3.58	+0.03	3.546
0.980	910 BETH AL-WAL (BRITISH)	4.6	16.30	11	2550	2344	0.93	0.95	0.91	0.92	-0.01	0.919
4.250	3.850 ARAB BANKING CO.	17.6	0.00	8	644	2377	3.85	3.80	3.65	3.65	-0.20	3.691

NAME	SECTOR	482	389315	1557162	INDEX NUMBER	240.23	CHANGE	1 - 0.481
1.830	1.740 JOR. FRENCH INSUR.	5.4	7.81	39	44400	83752	1.83	1.96

INSURANCE SECTOR		39	44400	83752	INDEX NUMBER : 114.70		CHANGE : + 0.49%					
2.050	1.760 JOR. ELECTRIC PWR.	9.2	5.24	273	158385	305272	1.96	1.96	1.91	-.05	1.927	1.056
8.000	8.000 JOR. HOTEL, TOURISM	12.0	1.31	1	1.0000	.8400	8.00	8.40	8.40	+.40	8.000	.200

3.780	2.320	IMBED ELECTRICITY	22.0	3.12	36	17338	68220	3.70	4.03	3.66	3.69	-01	3.925	.058
4.000	4.260	ARAB INT'L. HOTELS	12.8	4.82	3	160	874	4.26	4.26	4.15	4.15	-11	4.213	.002
2.750	2.500	SKIPPING LINES	15.4	4.91	1	100	265	2.70	2.65	2.65	2.65	-05	2.650	.000
1.110	1.110	AMR. POWER CORP.	16.0	6.40	16	6400	13134	1.11	1.31	1.31	1.31	-02	1.329	.113
.970	.900	REAL ESTATE INV.	12.8	6.52	3	7000	6440	.92	.92	.92	.92	-02	.920	.148
.540	.510	JORDAN INT'L. TRAD.	26.7	0.00	11	6598	3559	.54	.54	.52	.52	-02	.539	.194
7.220	7.150	ALBA-1	13.5	6.62	11	1512	11240	7.15	7.55	7.26	7.55	-04	7.500	.076
1.280	1.190	MID. EAST BOTELS	21.3	0.00	92	104100	165162	1.28	1.48	1.29	1.40	-12	1.394	.041
3.520	3.340	ARAB INT'L. INV. EDUC.	9.2	0.00	2	1430	14610	3.35	3.56	3.30	3.50	-08	3.340	.000
1.050	.950	AMRCA EXP. SHOW	19.0	9.68	29	9400	9266	.94	.94	.94	.94	-06	.957	.115
1.830	1.740	UNIFIED CO.	8.5	6.18	16	5750	10262	1.81	1.80	1.78	1.78	-03	1.785	.115
.720	.700	UNION LAND DEV.	-	0.00	19	10125	7438	.70	.74	.71	.74	+04	.735	.202

SERVICES		SECTOR		570	377798	805561	INDEX NUMBER : 110.83					CHANGE 1- 0.46%	
1.000	1.000 ATTACHEES	-	0.00	1	1000	1000	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	-	1.000	.036

NO. OF DAYS TRADED	5
DAILY AVERAGE OF TRADING VOLUME : JD	839,497
DAILY AVERAGE OF TRADED SHARES :	310,181
DAILY AVERAGE OF CONTRACTS :	415

1.620	INDUSICAL CORP. AGG.	0.00	0.00	13	2853	1338	1.65	1.94	1.82	1.81	-	1.633	-0.030
6.700	6.700 JOR. WORTST. IND.	11.2	2.08	8	12700	57991	6.85	6.95	6.80	6.95	+	6.889	-0.019
4.900	4.900 ARAB PHARM. MANF.	12.7	4.35	80	23159	106609	4.63	4.58	4.63	4.58	-	4.603	-0.057
5.800	5.800 JOR. CERIAH IND.	5.3	3.85	6	2449	13561	5.80	5.59	5.20	5.20	-	5.537	-0.098
2.650	2.650 JORDAN DAIRY	9.1	9.05	1	100	270	2.65	2.70	2.70	2.70	+	2.700	-0.006
1.270	1.270 JOR. PIPES MANFCT.	15.7	6.30	2	735	933	1.27	1.27	1.27	1.27	-	1.269	-0.023
2.800	2.800 JOR. PAPER CARBDD.	15.5	0.00	1	100	275	2.80	2.75	2.75	2.75	-	2.750	-0.03
6.500	6.350 ARAB CHEM. DTREXN.	19.9	4.62	5	650	4237	6.50	6.55	6.50	6.50	-	6.518	-0.098
5.950	5.730 DAR ALMANA DV. INV.	14.5	4.24	29	61560	367168	5.90	6.00	5.85	5.90	-	5.964	1.026
2.510	2.400 ARAB ALUM. IND.	5.6	10.46	27	25100	60755	2.47	2.45	2.38	2.39	-	2.421	-0.118
.570	.470 LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	10.8	0.00	119	92400	46962	.52	.52	.50	.51	-	.508	2.800
1.030	.850 ARAB PAPER CONV. ZND.	28.4	0.00	36	18950	16286	.86	.93	.82	.93	+	.855	-541
.810	.700 NATIONAL STEEL ZND.	-	0.00	6	10000	776	.80	.79	.77	.78	-	.774	-0.025
.620	.520 NATIONAL INDUS.	0.00	0.00	24	13342	7389	.56	.58	.54	.55	-	.563	-219
.590	.540 INTERMED. PETRO. CHN.	-	0.00	18	5850	3287	.55	.57	.55	.57	+	.562	-
.690	.630 JOR. ROCKWOL. INDUS.	-	0.00	8	15590	10485	.67	.68	.67	.68	+	.676	-517
1.520	1.450 UNIV. CHEM. INDUS.	12.8	7.04	8	1450	2061	1.45	1.44	1.42	1.42	-	1.421	-0.097
2.300	2.200 KATL. CABLE WIRE. NFAC	35.3	0.00	2	600	1333	2.30	2.25	2.20	2.20	-	2.222	-0.12
.730	.610 JOR. SULPHO-CHEN.	-	0.00	102	72800	50445	.66	.71	.66	.70	+	.693	1.617
1.350	1.350 ARAB PHARM. CHEM.	16.3	5.47	46	17600	23845	1.31	1.32	1.28	1.28	-	1.298	-352
.700	.700 KAMTHER INVEST.	67.0	0.00	2	250	170	.70	.68	.68	.68	-	.680	-0.13
1.280	1.230 UNIV. MODN. INDUS.	467.1	.21	37	9550	11799	1.24	1.25	1.22	1.23	-	1.235	-191
.930	.900 JOR. INDUS. RESOURCES	12.4	10.87	76	27574	24823	.91	.92	.89	.92	+	.901	-345
1.690	1.540 KATL. CHLORINE	16.7	4.49	4	1100	1719	1.54	1.57	1.56	1.56	+	1.563	-0.15
1.500	1.450 NEW CABLE CO.	15.9	0.00	6	8500	7316	1.47	.97	.84	.87	+	.852	1.073
1.570	1.500 LK -RAY READY-WEAR	51.7	0.00	20	6104	2050	1.57	1.51	1.47	1.47	-	1.463	-0.081
1.160	1.120 KATL. TOBACCO	6.5	0.00	44	40250	46773	1.14	1.18	1.13	1.18	+	1.162	-0.03
1.200	1.080 UNION CH. & VEG.	51.4	0.00	8	4526	5091	1.11	1.13	1.11	1.13	+	1.125	-101

World Cup qualifying down to the wire

PARIS (AFP) — Italy's enticing World Cup showdown with England in Rome on Saturday is just one of a series of crucial matches as the battle for places in next season's tournament in France comes down to the wire this weekend.

The final matches in each of the nine European groups will be contested with group winners assured of places in the finals along with the runner-up with the best record. The other eight group runners-up which could include the likes of England or Italy, Russia, Greece or Croatia — will face play-offs to determine whether they progress.

Even perennial powerhouses Germany do not go into the weekend certain of qualifying — and they have been badly hit by injuries.

The Germans are top in Group Nine, two points ahead of Ukraine and three in front of Portugal but with a vastly superior goal difference over both.

With Albania bottom with only four points from nine games, it is unlikely Germans will slip up in Hannover, even given the absence of stars like Matthias Sammer and Ulf Kirsten.

Portugal, meanwhile, need to beat Northern Ireland and hope second-placed Ukraine drop points in Armenia.

The much-vaunted Italy-England Group Two match in Rome sees 1966 winners England needing only a draw to advance, while the Italians need a win to avoid being forced the contest the play-offs.

The situation is similarly clear in Group One, where Greece will seal their place in France if they win at home to Denmark and the Danes will advance if they are triumphant or get a draw.

Norway have already sealed their spot from Group Three while Austria lead Group Four by two points going into their home game against Belarus. Scotland are assured of advancing either as group winners or as the runners-up with the best record — if they win at home to Latvia.

Bulgaria, regular over-achievers, have already sealed their spot from Group Five while Spain, with a home match against the Faroe Islands, will qualify from Group Six.

Holland need only a point against Turkey to be certain of progressing from Group Seven. The Turks still have a theoretical chance of overthrowing Belgium and finishing second. Romania have already wrapped up Group Eight with the Republic of Ireland set to be runners-up barring a major mathematical miracle — even if

they lose at home to the Romanians.

There will also be vital weekend matches in Asia, South America and the CONCACAF region.

With Argentina, Colombia and Paraguay already having qualified from South America, the interest all rests on Chile's home match with Peru. The home team need a win to overhaul the Peruvians for the final qualifying slot, while a draw will suffice for the visitors.

Mexico need just a point against Canada in Edmonton on Sunday to make certain of their place from CONCACAF, while unbeaten South Korea can tighten their grip on Asian Pool B if they win away to Kazakhstan in Almaty on Saturday. Uzbekistan host Japan with both teams virtually out of contention.

In the tighter Asian Pool A, leaders Iran are inactive but Kuwait host China on Friday night and Saudi Arabia are at home to Qatar on Saturday.

The teams to have already qualified are: France (hosts), Brazil (holders), Nigeria, Morocco, Tunisia, South Africa, Cameroon, Romania, Norway, Bulgaria, Spain, Argentina, Colombia, Paraguay.

England make Ince captain

ROME (AFP) — England coach Glenn Hoddle has made Paul Ince his captain for Saturday's crucial World Cup qualifying match with Italy here.

The England coach had been expected to confirm Tony Adams as the skipper on his 31st birthday.

The decision to make the Liverpool midfielder captain might mean Adams is unfit.

The Arsenal defender has played just six games since returning from an ankle operation and a rib injury.

Ince knows all about the Olympic Stadium, having played there against both Lazio and Roma in his days with Inter Milan.

The former Manchester United man, 30 later this month,

has led England four times previously.

He became the country's first black skipper when he led Graham Taylor's team to U.S. Cup defeat against the Americans in Boston in 1993.

Ince then led the side against Brazil later in the tournament before being named by Hoddle as skipper for the March friendly with Mexico in the absence of Alan Shearer and the injured Adams.

He also led England to victory over Italy in Nantes in last summer's Tournoi de France.

But there must be a massive doubt over whether Arsenal defender Adams will be fit to play.

Douillet on top of the world — again

PARIS (AFP) — David Douillet was being hailed as a French national hero Friday after completing a stunning hat-trick of heavyweight world titles at the Bercy sports stadium.

Yet despite outwardly displaying the confidence which had already made him one of the combat sport's all-time greats before his narrow triumph over Japan's Shinichi Shinozuka, Douillet could have been forgiven for thinking a terrible motor-cycle accident last year would blight his chances.

That was a huge setback for the man who scooped Over 95kg world championship golds in 1993 and 1995 as well as Olympic glory in Atlanta, while adding the open category gold in Chiba for good measure to become the first non-Japanese to 'double up' in the two categories.

But in ending his Japanese rival's hopes, the 28-year-old Douillet was finally able to savour probably his greatest triumph of all.

"This win gives me enormous personal satisfaction. It shows it's all been worth it, even if it has meant neglecting other areas of my life at times," he declared.



Olympic gold medalist Djamel Bouras of France (L) in action to beat Vladimir Shmakov of Uzbekistan in the 78kgs category at the World Judo Championships (Reuters photo)

"Just think — a year ago I had my leg in plaster, a cushion propping up my shoulder at 50 degrees," said fifth Dan Douillet, a genial giant away from the confines of the tatami mat at 1m97 and weighing in at 132kg.

"But even after the accident and all the problems, I've still managed to come through. And at 28, I'm still young — I can go on and accomplish a lot more yet in my life. It's not about breaking records."

As France, judo-mad by comparison at least with its European neighbours, rushed to acclaim him, Douillet revealed he had at first had some doubts about his ability to return, fearing the serious leg and shoulder injuries he suffered in his crash might have permanently blighted

his awesome power.

But his mental strength, which Dutch judo legend Anton Geesink had identified as a key factor in Douillet's make-up, carried him through amid emotional scenes before more than 10,000 fans in the arena and millions more on television.

Fellow Atlanta Olympic champion, welterweight star Djamel Bouras, says admiringly of Douillet: "When he gets on that mat, he's a monster. He blends strength, power and intelligence and he's not afraid of getting hurt."

standings at a world championship.

French federation technical director Fabien Canu, himself a double world champion, secretly hoped his squad would at least match their three gold and three bronze totals achieved both in Chiba two years ago and at Atlanta 15 months ago.

But with Christine Cicot weighing in with an unexpected women's heavyweight gold — at Japan's expense — to complete a French double on Thursday, that goal looks more like a minimum target, particularly when Monsieur Douillet will not have his final say here until Sunday's open event.

He is in no mood to be beaten and the Japanese, like the rest of the world, have been warned.

Hamed planning spectacular farewell

SHEFFIELD (AFP) — Prince Naseem Hamed defends his World Boxing Organisation (WBO) featherweight title against Jose Badillo here in his hometown on Saturday in what is expected to be his last fight in Britain before heading off to find 'the big time' in the United States.

Provided Hamed beats his opponent in his eighth defence, promoter Frank Warren is set to announce his next bout will be against American Kevin Kelley in Madison Square Garden, New York, probably before the end of the year.

Hamed, 26, has always said he wants to make a bigger name for himself across the Atlantic and the only obstacle to him achieving this goal appears to be Warren's connections with Don King.

King owns the Showtime Television Network but it is rivals Home Box Office (HBO) who are being touted as the company which will showcase Hamed's talents.

All this would become irrelevant if the Prince were to lose his title to Badillo on Saturday night.

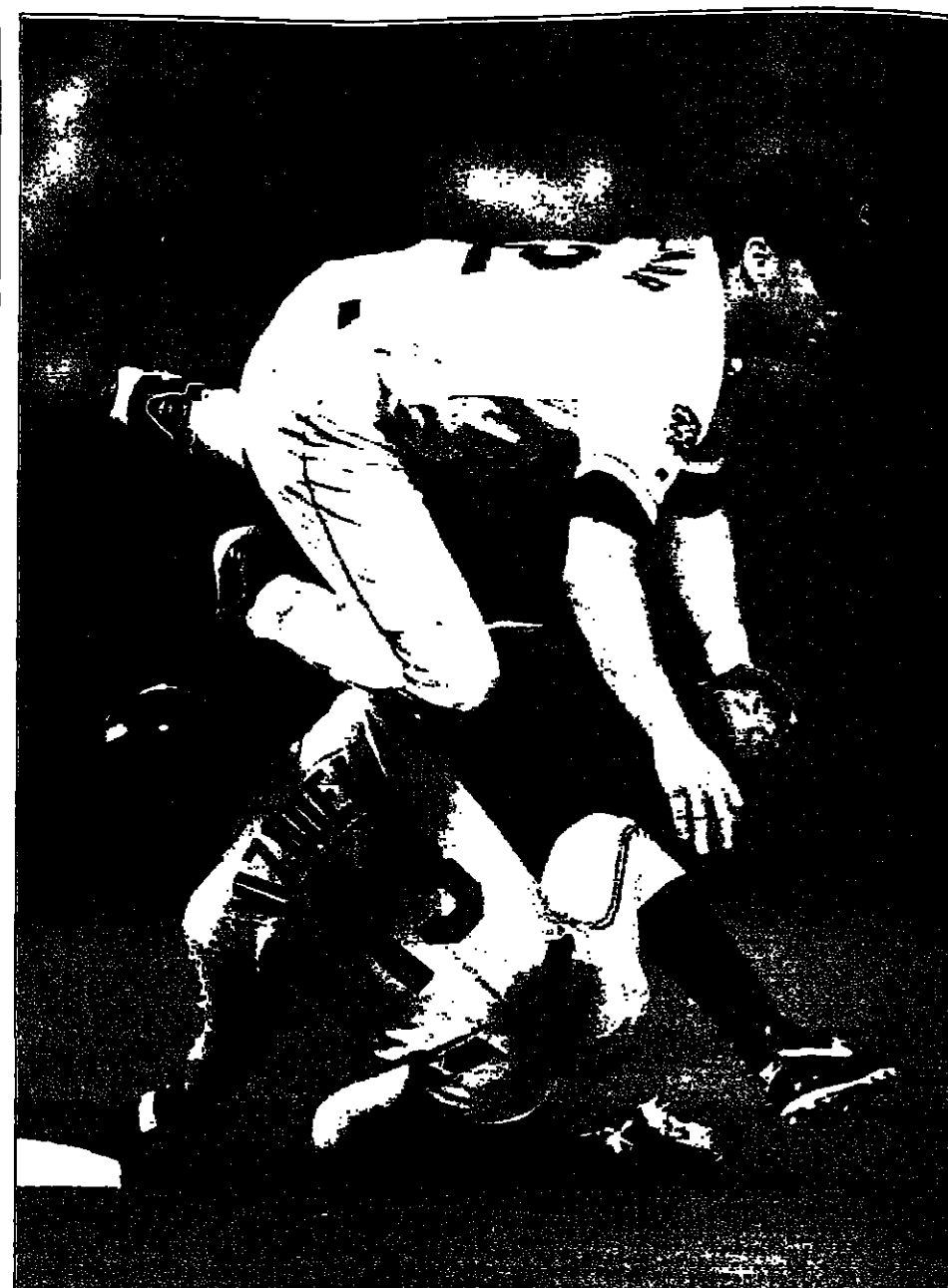
Nor is it likely to be another walkover for Hamed against an opponent who has won 20 of 21 fights.

Badillo knocked the then IBF (International Boxing Federation) champion Tom 'Boom Boom' Johnson down three times on his way to a split decision defeat in December 1995 — just over a year before Hamed beat Johnson to claim his WBO belt in eight rounds, only managing two knockdowns in the process.

But Hamed is as cocky as ever, predicting he will knock out his Puerto Rican opponent inside three rounds.

"I want to go out there and bash somebody up. That's the way I am," says Hamed. "I just want to knock somebody clean out and feel good after doing it."

"I am impressive. I know I am. That's being confident, not being boastful, and I cannot wait to show the Sheffield public just what a champion they have got."



Baltimore Orioles second baseman Roberto Alomar goes high to avoid the slide of Cleveland Indians Omar Vizquel on a double play ball hit by Indians Manny Ramirez in the fourth inning of game two of the 1997 American League Championship Series at Camden Yards (Reuters photo)

Grissom's homer pulls Indians level

BALTIMORE (AFP) — Marquis Grissom found the form that made him a World Series hero the past two years, slamming a game-winning home run to give Cleveland a momentum-swinging baseball playoff triumph.

Grissom's three-run homer in the eighth-inning here Thursday lifted the Indians past Baltimore 5-4 to level the American League championship series at one victory each with game three set for Saturday in Cleveland.

"It was a big emotional lift for us," Cleveland pitcher Mike Jackson said. "A team can thrive off a situation like this. It's a big boost for our club going home. We have momentum."

Grissom hit a two-out slider off Oriole relief pitcher Armando Benitez over the deepest part of the Camden Yards centerfield wall.

The Dominican right-hander walked Sandy Alomar and Jim Thome to set up the homer. "He hung the slider and Grissom hit it," Orioles pitching coach Ray Miller said. "When you make a mistake, you will pay for it."

Grissom, fighting the flu, was a batting star for Atlanta of the National League the past two years in the World Series before a

March trade to Cleveland, but struggled this season after switching leagues.

"Over the course of the whole season, I took it as a learning process," Grissom said. "I couldn't be mad and upset the whole time."

It is an adjustment. It helped. Now it's time for me to put that in effect. Mike Bordick had put the Orioles ahead 4-2 with a two-run single to right field in the sixth inning, but five Cleveland relievers combined to keep the Orioles hitless over the final three innings.

"We knew it wouldn't be easy," Baltimore's B.J. Surhoff said. "We knew it would be a tough series. We knew they wouldn't quit."

Benitez, who had struck off Grissom in their two prior matchups, was not as fortunate and had no comment after the game. "I had no qualms about going with him," Orioles manager Davey Johnson said. "I can't think of another time this year Armando didn't hold them in the eighth. It's unfortunate. It's a tough loss."

Each team had a key player hurt. Cleveland's David Justice strained his right shoulder evading a first-inning pickoff attempt.

Baltimore's Brady Anderson suffered a groin pull. Both appear to be

minor injuries.

Cleveland's Manny Ramirez hit a two-run homer in the first inning and Ripken smacked a two-run homer in the second inning for the only runs until Bordick's hit.

Ripken slammed a knee-high fastball over the left-field fence for the equalizing homer. Cuban-born Rafael Palmeiro doubled to set up Ripken's first career playoff homer in 91 times at bat over 24 post-season games.

The Orioles were lucky to escape the first inning trailing only 2-0 after a horrid start by left-handed pitcher Jimmy Key, who has won here only once since May 7. Key hit only five batters in 212 regular-season innings but struck three Indians with first-inning throws, a single-inning playoff record for hit batters over nearly a century of baseball.

Cleveland's inability to do more damage against Key nearly cost them dearly. The Indians stranded seven base runners in Key's four innings.

Orioles ace Mike Mussina and Indians veteran Orel Hershiser will pitch game three Saturday. The Indians will use 21-year-old rookie Jaret Wright against game one winner Scott Erickson in game four Sunday.

Henman impressive as he closes on all-British semis

VIENNA (AFP) — Tim Henman of Britain took just 63 minutes to overwhelm Karol Kucera of Slovakia in straight sets Friday and advance to the semi-finals of the CA Trophy ATP Tour event.

Henman won 6-4, 6-1 to set up the possibility of an all-British semi-final. He will play compatriot Greg Rusedski if his fellow Briton beats American Todd Martin in his quarter-final later on Friday.

Henman reached the semis for the second straight week. He lost to

Australian Mark Philippoussis in the last four in Basle, Switzerland, last week.

The 23-year-old from Oxford, ranked 21st, mixed power and consistency with some excellent touch as he outplayed Kucera, who had beaten top seed Yevgeny Kafelnikov earlier in the event.

Henman began the match with an ace, broke Kucera with the aid of a lob and a double fault to go 3-1 up and then served for the first set at 5-3. He squandered to two set points and allowed

the Slovak to break back — his only slip-up of the match.

Henman then redoubled his efforts, immediately breaking Kucera with the aid of another double fault to take the set 6-4 in 39 minutes.

The second set was one-way traffic after Henman broke for 3-1 thanks to another double fault, Kucera's fifth, and a forehand that the Slovak sprayed wide.

The British No. 2 romped home by winning the last five games as 32nd-ranked

Kucera and his coach Miloslav Mecir looked increasingly downcast.

Henman reached the seventh semi-final of his career.

The other quarter-finals see third-seed Goran Ivanisevic of Croatia playing Bohdan Ulihrach of the Czech Republic and Swede Magnus Larsson against former Wimbledon champion Richard Krajicek of the Netherlands.

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SPORTS IN BRIEF

Robson awaits Porto cash

LISBON (AFP) — Former England World Cup manager Bobby Robson failed to reach an out of court settlement with his former club Porto but said Friday he would continue the legal battle over 70 million escudos (\$392,000) he claims Porto owe him in back pay. He left Porto for Barcelona two seasons ago and Porto claim they never received 100 million pesetas (\$670,000) in compensation from the Spanish side.

Mosley reelected FIA president

PARIS (AFP) — Max Mosley was re-elected president of the International Automobile Federation by a show of hands here Friday. The 57-year-old Briton was the only candidate. He was elected for a first four-year term in 1993.

Zagreb pay for hooligan fans

GENEVA (AFP) — Croatia Zagreb, whose fans went on the rampage in Zurich after winning their UEFA Cup game last month, have been fined 100,000 Swiss Francs (\$67,000).

Armstrong splits with French team

SAN SEBASTIAN, Spain (AFP) — French professional cycling team Cofidis have split up with former world champion Lance Armstrong of Texas who hopes to race again after winning his battle against cancer. "We supported Lance for a year but his agent has made an unreasonable demand on us taking up an option," a team official said. Armstrong was expected to ride for U.S. Postal next season. He never rode for Cofidis as he went down with testicular cancer shortly after signing for them in 1996.

Donadoni to return to Italy

NEW YORK (AFP) — Italian star Roberto Donadoni has decided to leave the New York/New Jersey MetroStars to return to his former club, AC Milan. Donadoni, 34, who joined the MetroStars of Major League Soccer in February 1996, played 52 games for them over two seasons. He was previously with Serie A giants AC Milan for ten seasons.

Brazil leave it late against Morocco

RIO DE JANEIRO (AFP) — Brazil beat Morocco 2-0 in Thursday's friendly international here thanks to late goals from DeNelson who opened the score in the 80th minute and who then slotted home a penalty two minutes from time.

Hingis to face Maleeva

FILDERSTADT (AFP) — Top seed Martina Hingis will face Bulgaria's Magdalena Maleeva in the last eight of the WTA Tour event here. Unseeded Maleeva breezed into the quarterfinals on Thursday with 6-2, 6-3 triumph over Italian Rita Grande 6-2, 6-3 to earn a meeting with the top-ranked Swiss teen. In other second-round matches on Thursday, No.8 seed Irina Spirlea of Romania beat Slovakia's Karina Habsudova 6-2, 6-0. Japan's Naoko Sawamatsu defeated American Mary Joe Fernandez 6-2, 0-6, 6-3 and fifth-seed Amanda Coetzer of South Africa downed Russian teenager but Anna Kournikova 3-6, 6-3, 6-4. American Lisa Raymond, who upset second-seeded Jana Novotna on Wednesday, faces Sawamatsu in the quarters while Coetzer plays Patty Schnyder of Switzerland and Spirlea meets Spaniard Arantxa Sanchez Vicario.

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East-West vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH	EAST
♠ 5 4	♠ J 10 6 3 2
♥ 6 3	♥ Q J 10 4
♦ Q J 9 8 2	♦ 8 5
♣ J 8 4	♣ 4 2

WEST **EAST**

♠ A Q 7 ♠ J 10 6 3 2

♥ A 9 8 7 5 ♥ Q J 10 4

♦ Void ♦ 8 5

♣ A K Q 7 3 ♣ 4 2

SOUTH **EAST**

♠ K 9

♥ K 2

♦ A K 10 7 4 3

♣ 10 6 5

The bidding:

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1♣	2♣	2♠	2♠
Pass	3♣	3♣	Pass
Pass	3♣	3♣	Pass
Pass	3♣	3♣	Pass

Opening lead: King of ♠

Don't rely on partner finding the right defense if it lies within your power to make life easy for all concerned. Here's an example of what we mean.

At both tables of a team match, the final contract was five diamonds doubled by South. Six hearts is an excellent contract for East-West, especially in light of South's

opening bid, and on this lie of the cards a grand slam runs in. However, it is by no means easy to get above game, so it was very important for the defense to extract the maximum penalty.

At both tables, the opening lead was the king of clubs, on which East produced the nine. Next came the ace, and East completed an echo by dropping the deuce. At one table West continued with the queen, and East lazily discarded a low spade. West was now end-played. Whether the defender conceded a ruff-club or broke a major-suit, declarer was able to escape with only three losers in the majors, and six losers overall — 800 to East-West.

At the other table West, taking note of partner's echo in clubs, made sure that the defense would not err. At trick three West continued with the seven of clubs, forcing partner to ruff.

East made no mistake with the rest of the defense. To the fourth trick East led the queen of hearts. Declarer did as well as possible by refusing to cover, but East continued the partnership's excellent defense by abandoning hearts in favor of the jack of spades. That spelled down four — 1,100 to East-West, or eight International Match Points.

Ali auction turns up new treasure

LOS ANGELES (AFP) — An unprecedented sale of Muhammad Ali memorabilia will include one treasure that collector Ronnie Paloger didn't even know about until Christie's began promoting the auction.

The find — an astrological chart drawn on a handkerchief, along with a prediction of Ali's victory over George Foreman in Kinshasa, Zaire — was sewn into the hem of the robe which Ali wore into the ring against Foreman on October 30, 1974.

Ali, who had waited seven years to reclaim the world heavyweight title from Foreman, didn't know himself that the prediction was there, said Christie's sports memorabilia expert Don Flanagan.

Flanagan said the auction house was contacted by Michael Fish, one of the makers of the robe, after the garment was displayed in London in August.

"Astrologer Frederic Davies predicts 1974 World Champion Muhammad Ali," is written on the handkerchief, directly over the circular astrological chart that is annotated with Ali's date of birth and the date, time and place of the fight.

The white calf length robe trimmed with African patterns and elaborate beadwork, is the centerpiece of the collection, and is expected to fetch upwards of \$100,000.

A label in the robe reads "Christopher Lynch and Mr. Fish for The Greatest Zaire — September 24th, 1974."

Paloger, who describes himself as a lifelong Ali fan, said the Zaire robe would be the hardest item to part with.

"I would say the robe from Africa, if you really pined me down," said Paloger, adding that he expected the October 19 auction in Los Angeles to be a "bittersweet" experience.

"This was pretty much a five-year labor of love full-time," paloger said. "I did classified ads, was the first one at shows, I went through archival newspapers looking for information. There was a lot of sort of detective work."

Ali has complained recently that some of the items in the collection were taken without permission by members of his entourage.

But Flanagan said 99 per cent of the items, such as posters, banners buttons and other promotional materials, tickets to fights and scorecards, were never in the champion's possession.

Of the remainder, 27 items were bought at public auctions or sales, Flanagan said, and no one connected with Ali has contacted Christie's to claim ownership.

Almost all of the items were displayed for eight months in Louisville, Kentucky, Ali's hometown, an exhibit attended by Ali and his family.

Taken as a whole, the collection tracks Ali's career from his earliest amateur days until 1978, when he defeated Leon Spinks to become the first man to win the heavyweight crown three times.

It also details the battles with authorities that made Ali a controversial figure in the turbulent 1960s.

Tactical battle shapes up in Japan GP

SUZUKA (AFP) — Tactical warfare opened between Williams and Ferrari in Friday's first practice for the Japanese Grand Prix where Jacques Villeneuve could clinch the world championship against Michael Schumacher.

Ferrari were the most successful in the opening battle, Schumacher's teammate Eddie Irvine setting the day's fastest time, while Heinz-Harald Frentzen's Williams was fourth quickest.

"Irvine was concentrating on qualifying in front of us, so I hope he won't be, because he could easily block us," Villeneuve said. "I hope I won't have to work at that for the Championship."

Schumacher and Villeneuve both concentrated on preparing their cars for the race, posting only 10th and 11th times respectively.

Villeneuve's only problem came when a tyre was damaged by debris, which cut his allocation by one set, annoying but not critical, the team said.

Though there is little apparent tension, both sides were taking any opportunity to try a little psychological warfare.

Schumacher said pointedly: "I stopped early this afternoon because I had finished today's planned programme and I did not want to use another set of tyres."

Irvine complained that even while speeding up to the quickest time, his car was nervous and unstable, though he improved it later.

He was nearly two seconds faster than Villeneuve, but running with new tyres and little fuel.

"Michael is only two tenths of a second ahead, which is not important," Villeneuve retorted. "I'm not too worried about that."

He added that he was not watching him at all. "All that counts is to be in front of him in the race," he said.

Villeneuve will win the title if he wins one more point than Schumacher on Sunday. If not, the title race will go down to the wire at the final Grand Prix in Jerez, Spain, on Oct. 26.

Schumacher's brother Ralf, in a Jordan Peugeot, was second fastest ahead of Olivier Panis in a Prost Mugen Honda, before its engine exploded.

Ralf Schumacher, who put his brother out of the last race at the first corner,



Canada's Jacques Villeneuve leaves his Williams Renault's pit after finishing the first free practice session for Sunday's Japanese Grand Prix. Villeneuve has a nine-point lead over Germany's Michael Schumacher in the F1 world title race (Reuters photo)



Germany's Michael Schumacher smiles in the pit lane before the first free practice session at Suzuka Circuit for Sunday's Formula One Japanese Grand Prix. Schumacher in a Ferrari set the tenth fastest time of one minute 40.460 (Reuters photo)

as the championship is at stake.

But he was clearly enjoying himself. "I had some fun in that session, and on a few occasions I was well a truly hanging it out," Hill said.

Panis is at his second race since recovering from breaking both legs in a mid-season accident in Canada.

"To be third on the grid overnight is a nice way to kick off the weekend," he said.

He conceded there was a great deal of work to be done to keep the position and that he still had some way to go to get back fully into racing.

"As I progressively get more confidence in the car," he said "I know that there is more to come from me."

Jean Alesi, fifth in the

Benetton Renault, unusually expressed himself very satisfied.

He said he was "totally focused" on his battle for third place in the championship with Frentzen, one point ahead, and David Coulthard, four points behind Alesi.

"That is my objective and I will do all I can to get to it," Alesi said.

Coulthard was eighth and McLaren Mercedes teammate Mika Hakkinen back in 14th, but team boss Ron Dennis said the team was "comfortable" with the results.

Hakkinen had a minor spin and Coulthard was blocked on his potentially fastest lap.

Off the track, popular Japanese driver Ukyo Katayama announced he would be retiring from Formula One at the end of this season after six years.

China launches Olympic-size National Games

SHANGHAI (AFP) — China will on Sunday launch its National Games, an event bigger than the Olympics, amidst mounting speculation that it will bid for the 2008 Olympics.

Chinese officials sought to dampen the conjecture Friday as they prepared to partially lift the veil of secrecy over the country's sporting power.

But International Olympic Committee (IOC) president Juan Antonio Samaranch will be at the opening ceremony of the eighth National Games, which will have 13,000 competitors.

The IOC says China has already expressed an interest in the 2008 Games with Beijing or Shanghai the likely candidate. But Sports Minister Wu Shaoyu said: "So far, we have not seriously pondered upon that issue."

Other Chinese sports officials have also insisted the topic has not even been discussed by the Chinese Olympic Committee, although there is still plenty of time to make a bid and Samaranch is known to be a supporter of such a candidacy.

China lost out to Sydney for the 2000 Games in one of the most intense and bitter lobbying campaigns in Olympic history.

Wu insisted that Beijing's loss was due to "non-sports factors," a reference to China's human rights which were raised by

China's opponents throughout the campaign.

Shanghai has pulled out all the stops to make sure these Games are a success, spending \$700 million on building or refurbishing stadiums and other facilities.

The opening ceremony, entitled "Long Live The Motherland," will be in the new 80,000 capacity Barrel complex, which cost \$170 million.

The whole city has been festooned with banners and posters and Games will also see athletes from Hong Kong taking part for the first time, since its return from British rule.

Despite its poor returns from the Atlanta Olympics last year, China is by far Asia's sporting superpower and the National Games will be a rare opportunity to see it in full force.

"We want them to beat national, Asian and world records," the sports minister added.

The 28 sports will include China's star swimmers, led by Le Jingyi, the 100 metre freestyle Olympic champion, now largely free of the drug shadow that cast them in scandal at the 1994 Asian Games.

Athletics has been another area where China has made major progress, but there are question marks over both of the country's star names.

Olympic women's 5,000 metre champion Wang Junxia is now back in training having seen China's dismal performance at the world championships in Athens in July. But it was not known if she would run in Shanghai.

Her estranged mentor, supercoach Ma Junren is expected to be with his squad at the National Games but his associates have warned not to expect any records.

Ma stunned the world when Wang and his other athletes set three world records at the last National Games in 1993.

Rumours in China said Ma had not been included in the Liaoning team delegation for Shanghai, but Cui Dalin, chief of the Liaoning Physical Culture and Sports Commission, said Ma would be there.

The games will break new ground however by introducing foreign judges for the first time in their 40 year history.

Two foreign judges will

control the water polo competition, but their names and nationalities are being kept a secret.

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Chairman

THE GOVERNMENT

IN THE SERVICE

OF PEOPLE

Weizman shocked by level of U.S. distrust of Netanyahu; hundreds of Israelis demand prime minister's resignation

Combined agency dispatches

PRESIDENT EZER Weizman, wrapping up a five-day U.S. trip, said he was shocked by U.S. leaders' "immense lack of trust" in Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

President Weizman told the Haaretz daily in an interview published Friday that he repeatedly found himself in a position of having to defend Mr. Netanyahu. "Bibi's got a big problem in America," Mr. Weizman said, referring to Mr. Netanyahu by his widely used nickname.

Israeli-U.S. relations have become increasingly troubled in recent weeks.

Last month, Mr. Netanyahu angered U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright by announcing the construction of 300 more units in a Jewish settlement in Arab east Jerusalem at a time when she was seeking a timeout in construction. Just before Mr. Netanyahu's announcement, Ms. Albright had spoken to him by phone, and he had made no mention of new construction plans.

The U.S. is also upset over Israel's botched assassination of Hamas politburo chief Khaled Misha'al in Amman.

Ms. Albright has said she does not want to speak to Mr. Netanyahu amid American anger at the rightwing leader's policies. Maariv, an Israeli paper, reported Friday.

"I have nothing to say to him. We have made efforts and none of them have worked," Ms. Albright told

Israeli President Weizman during his visit to Washington this week, the daily Maariv said.

Ms. Albright rejected a request by Mr. Weizman that she invite Mr. Netanyahu to the U.S., or at least speak to him, the paper said.

However, Mr. Netanyahu's senior adviser, David Bar-Ilan, said Friday that Israeli-U.S. ties were not in trouble. "We feel the relations are good. There is constant communication and collaboration between the two countries," Mr. Bar-Ilan said.

He noted that this week's visit by U.S. Middle East coordinator Dennis Ross was a success, ending with an unexpected meeting between Mr. Netanyahu and Palestinian President Yasser Arafat.

Mr. Weizman said he told Ms. Albright and President Bill Clinton that Mr. Netanyahu was committed to the peace process, and that the U.S. would have no choice but to work with him since he was elected democratically.

Haaretz said President Weizman indicated that President Clinton and Ms. Albright were angry at Mr. Netanyahu for going back on his word, such as misleading the secretary of state on the Jewish settlement issue.

The Israeli president said he was aware of growing dissatisfaction with Mr. Netanyahu's style. "I knew about it before but hearing it first hand was not pleasant," he told Haaretz.

"There is a bad atmosphere between Bibi and several world leaders, from Mubarak

to Albright. There is a lot of cynicism about him."

President Weizman himself had his run-ins with Mr. Netanyahu, with the prime minister reportedly angry about the president's active role in the peace process. The presidency is a largely ceremonial position in Israel, but the outspoken Weizman, who helped negotiate the 1979 peace treaty between Israel and Egypt, has been more involved in day-to-day politics.

Meanwhile, hundreds of Israelis demonstrated Thursday outside the Netanyahu residence, calling on him to resign to keep the country out of a war, witnesses said.

Police detained at least two Israelis when clashes erupted between protesters and security officers in the demonstrations organised by the leftwing Peace Now movement.

A few demonstrators were lightly injured in scuffles with police.

"Netanyahu resign, you are leading us to war," read signs the protesters held outside Mr. Netanyahu's home.

The demonstrators also called on the rightwing leader to establish a state inquiry into a Mossad secret service attempt last month to murder Hamas leader Misha'al.

Mr. Netanyahu has appointed a "clarification committee" to investigate the fiasco. In Israel, the prime minister is seen as holding top responsibility for the Mossad.



Israeli riot police hold back demonstrators, carrying a poster of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu which reads in Hebrew 'Bibi leads to war', as they call for his resignation, Thursday. One woman was injured and a man arrested in clashes with police during the protest by hundreds of Peace Now activists outside the prime minister's official residence (Reuters photo)



Israelis sign a petition in Tel Aviv Thursday calling on Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to resign in the aftermath of a bungled attempt by Israel's Mossad spy agency to assassinate Hamas leader Khaled Misha'al on Sept. 25 (Reuters photo)

Albright apologises for spokesman's leak

WASHINGTON (AFP) — U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright apologised after her spokesman leaked to journalists comments Israeli President Ezer Weizman made to her last month, the president said Thursday.

President Weizman told Ms. Albright during their meeting in Israel last month that she should "bang heads" together to get the Middle East peace process back on track.

The Israeli president was outraged when State Department spokesman James P. Rubin told reporters that Mr. Weizman had made the comment.

"I think it was indecent," President Weizman told a news conference here fol-

lowing four days of meetings with the U.S. leadership.

"I think it is not done, when a secretary of state and a president of a state are having a talk, that someone leaks out things," he said.

President Weizman said Ms. Albright telephoned him to apologise for the blunder and the Israeli president had an opportunity to convey his annoyance over the affair to spokesman Rubin directly this week.

"I told him yesterday: 'Young Rubin, remember one thing. I am a product of the Royal Air Force, and we were taught: He who hasn't done a mistake hasn't done anything. But don't do the same mistake twice'."

President Weizman said.

Ex-PM calls for French, German money for PNA

PARIS (AFP) — Former Israeli prime minister Shimon Peres pleaded here Thursday for France and Germany to provide economic aid to the Palestinians immediately, saying they are in a very difficult financial situation.

"President Jacques Chirac has announced he supports that completely," Mr. Peres said after talks with the French head of state.

"Economic cooperation can help," said Mr. Peres, who heads a foundation bearing his name whose goal is to strengthen Israeli-Palestinian economic cooperation.

"In spite of all the problems, we can say that all sides are seeking a political solution," he said of the resumption of Israeli-Palestinian negotiations.

"We don't want any side to turn again to war or terrorism. That may be one of the best things to come out of this complicated situation," said the former

Labour Party leader who is in Paris on a private visit where he is to take part in a symposium.

Mr. Peres said that the "true solution" to the quagmire in which Israel finds itself in southern Lebanon "is an agreement with the Syrians."

"The Syrians control the fate of the Lebanese. It's not something we like very much, but it's the reality," he said.

"The time has come to open negotiations with the Syrians and come to a settlement on the problem of the Golan and Lebanon," he added. "There is no alternative. We have had five wars. Israel has won all of them militarily. None of them politically. I don't think that a sixth war will change that."

Syria is the dominant power in Lebanon, where the Israeli military occupies a self-declared "security zone."

Parliament approves funds to defend Russian missile installation

NICOSIA (AP) — The Cypriot parliament has approved the purchase of a second anti-aircraft system for the country's new air base, which Turkey has threatened to attack.

The acting chairman of the parliamentary defence committee, Antonis Karas, told reporters Thursday that the committee agreed to the purchase in response to Turkey's threats to destroy Russian S-300 missiles that are due to be delivered in August 1998.

Mr. Karas declined to elaborate. But informed sources said the government will now spend tens of millions of Cypriot pounds on French and Italian missiles designed to attack low-level aircraft.

The new missiles are intended to enhance the defence of the base being built near the southwestern town of Paphos, whose principal armament will be the long-range Russian anti-aircraft missiles.

Last month Turkish Prime Minister Mesut Yilmaz said he had authorised the Turkish Armed Forces to prevent the deployment of the Russian missiles, saying they posed a threat not only to the Turkish-occupied north of Cyprus, but to Turkey itself.

Russia's ambassador to

Cyprus, Georgi Muradov, dismissed the Turkish threat Thursday as "unrealistic."

"What does it mean if one country threatens to attack the ships of another country, especially of Russia. In international relations this amounts to war," Mr. Muradov told a Cypriot television talk show.

Cyprus has no combat aircraft itself. But under a joint defence pact with Greece, Greek warplanes will be allowed to use the Paphos Base.

Cyprus has been divided into a southern Greek-dominated south and a Turkish-occupied north since Turkey invaded the island in 1974 to protect the Turkish Cypriot minority after a coup by supporters of union with Greece. A breakaway Turkish Cypriot state in the north is recognised only by Turkey which maintains 35,000 troops there.

President Glafcos Clerides, the Greek Cypriot leader, has repeatedly rejected the Turkish threats against the Russian missiles. On Monday he told the U.N. General Assembly in New York that the missiles would be deployed unless Turkey accepts his proposals for the demilitarisation of the island.

Bardot charged for defaming Muslims

PARIS (AP) — A French appeals court fined Brigitte Bardot \$1600 for inciting racial hatred and ordered her to pay a symbolic 20 cents Thursday to human rights groups that sued her for criticising the Muslim slaughter of sheep. The court overturned an earlier ruling in favour of the 63-year-old former screen siren and animal rights campaigner on charges of defaming Muslims. Bardot was sued for her commentary in the conservative daily Le Figaro in April 1996, in which she blasted the four-day Eid Al Adha spring festival, when many of France's 3 million Muslims sacrifice a lamb.

Bardot, who is married to a member of France's anti-immigrant National Front Party, complained of "foreign overpopulation," saying the slaughter was "a torture, signs of the most atrocious pagan sacrifices." The Movement Against Racism and For Friendship of People said Thursday's court ruling "honours justice and dishonours the woman who was the symbol of a certain image of France."

She could have been given a maximum sentence of one year in prison and a fine of \$60,000.

The court said Bardot's comments were "a clear incitement to racial hatred."

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Israel says seeking way to extradite murder suspect

TEL AVIV (AP) — Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has informed U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright that Israel is seeking a legal way to extradite a Maryland teen-ager sought in a grisly U.S. killing, an aide said Friday.

The case has strained Israeli-U.S. relations, with an angry Congress considering large aid cuts to Israel if 17-year-old Samuel Sheinbein is not returned to Maryland for trial.

Sheinbein is charged in Montgomery County, Maryland, in the death of Alfredo Enrique Tello, 19, whose burned and dismembered body was found Sept. 18 in a Washington suburb.

Sheinbein came to Israel a

few days later, and was arrested at the request of U.S. authorities. On Wednesday, an Israeli court ordered him held for 10 more days. A team of Maryland legal and police officials visited Israel this week.

Sheinbein's lawyer, former Justice Minister David Libai, contends that Israel cannot extradite Sheinbein because he has Israeli citizenship through his father.

The elder Sheinbein was born in Palestine in 1944, but left for the U.S. at age six. Under Israeli law, parents automatically pass their citizenship on to their children.

Israeli law also stipulates that citizens suspected of

having committed a crime abroad must be tried and serve their sentence in Israel. Ms. Albright has told Mr. Netanyahu she expected "maximum cooperation" in the case.

Mr. Netanyahu wrote to Ms. Albright on the matter this week, assuring her that Israel's interior ministry is studying the citizenship file of the elder Sheinbein and other documents, and that Sheinbein will be extradited if it is found that this is legal.

Mr. Netanyahu wrote that he "will try whatever possible to satisfy the American request for extradition within the framework of the law," said Mr. Netanyahu's senior adviser, David Bar-Ilan.

U.S. exerts pressure on Egypt to attend MENA

CAIRO (AFP) — The U.S. on Thursday urged Egypt to attend the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) economic conference next month in Doha, Qatar, which has drawn protests from Arab states opposed to Israeli participation.

An official U.S. request to attend the Nov. 16-18 forum was submitted to Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa by visiting U.S. Under-Secretary of State for Economic and Agriculture Affairs Stuart Eizenstat.

Mr. Eizenstat told reporters he handed Mr. Musa a message from U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright underscoring the "need to convene the Doha conference and for a high-ranking official and private sector participation."

The U.S. envoy said it was imperative to "separate political consideration and the economic conference because investors wishing to invest in Egypt and the Middle East look for a climate of stability and want to feel that the obstacles blocking the peace process do not undermine their investments."

Earlier, he told the Good Morning Egypt talk show on state television: "Only about seven per cent of all the trade in the Middle East is among and between the countries of

the Middle East.

"If we can encourage more cooperation regionally, then Egypt can grow faster and there will be more markets for its exports," Mr. Eizenstat said.

"President [Bill] Clinton and Secretary of State Albright think it's absolutely critical that Egypt send a strong and high level delegation [to the MENA forum] and that other Arab countries do as well," Mr. Eizenstat said.

He stressed that the conference "is not a reward for Israel" and should not be linked to "the ups and downs of the peace process."

"I think one of the most serious mistakes would be if countries boycott because of concerns about the peace process," he added.

Mr. Musa said Egypt had not yet made up its mind whether to attend the conference, according to Mr. Eizenstat.

Meanwhile, the secretary general of the Cairo-based Arab League, Esmat Abdul Meguid, received on Thursday an official invitation from Qatar to attend the MENA conference, Arab League spokesman Talaat Hamed said.

Mr. Hamed did not say if Mr. Abdul Meguid had accepted the invitation.

Armed Algerian group calls truce alongside AIS

BONN (AFP) — One of Algeria's smaller armed groups, the Islamic League of Daawa and Jihad (preaching and holy war — LIDD) confirmed in a statement on Friday that it would immediately observe a truce.

The statement made available in Bonn also demanded total freedom for Islamist leader Abassi Madani, who is currently under house arrest in Algiers.

The group, among armed Islamists rose up against the secular regime in 1992 after it cancelled general elections the now-outlawed Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), headed by Sheikh Madani, was poised to win.

The LIDD called on all units under its command to respect a ceasefire, following a similar statement issued in London on Thursday, which said that the truce would start Saturday.

The Bonn communiqué also called for the release from prison of FIS number two Ali Belhadj.

The LIDD groups about 100 fighters mainly in the Medea region in Algeria south of the capital, a source close to Islamist circles said.

It distanced itself from the hardline Islamic Armed

Five killed in Algiers mosque bomb

ALGIERS (AFP) — Five worshippers were killed and seven wounded when a bomb exploded inside an Algiers mosque during Friday prayers, the imam of the mosque said. The bomb went off inside the mosque in the Puits Des Zouaves district of the capital's Bouzareah sector, situated in the hills overlooking the city. It was the first attack inside a mosque since an Islamic insurgency flared in Algeria in 1992, when the military cancelled elections that the now-banned Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) was poised to win. A second bomb, planted in a nearby prayer room, was discovered in the nick of time and buried outside the building. There it went off, slightly injuring one person, witnesses said. Several dozen inmates, appointed by Algeria's military-backed regime, have been murdered in attacks blamed on Islamic extremists over the years. But Friday's attack was the first bombing to occur inside a mosque.

Group (GIA) in November 1995 and has now aligned itself with a truce call made on Sept. 21 by the armed wing of the FIS, the Islamic Salvation Army (AIS), led by Sheikh Madani Mezrag.

Algerian troops have discovered a mass grave containing at least 20 bodies during the course of an ongoing campaign against an Islamist stronghold south of Algiers, a daily said Thursday.

Men of the country's civil protection unit on Tuesday began recovering bodies from a deep well in the Ouled Allet region, where

troops have this month been carrying a major sweep to wipe out a base of the Armed Islamic Group GIA, the Al Khabar newspaper reported.

The land around the well was mined and military intervention forces have not ruled out the prospect of finding other mass graves at Ouled Allet village, where the GIA has often held civilian hostages, the paper said.

In a rare move, the army has allowed journalists to observe its offensive against the highland stronghold of the hardline GIA at Ouled Allet, backed up by tanks and helicopter gunships.

Arafat and King discuss attempt and violence

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